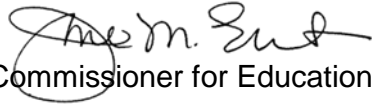




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June 15, 2017

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public Schools
Principals of Public Schools

FROM: Jhone M. Ebert 
Senior Deputy Commissioner for Education Policy

SUBJECT: Summer Reading at New York Libraries – Reaching Children and Families

As the school year comes to an end, the State Education Department and the New York State Library encourage school administrators and teachers to work with local public libraries to ensure that students participate in a summer reading program this year.

Through the **Summer Reading at New York Libraries** program, the State Library offers an effective summer reading program which is planned and implemented in collaboration at over 1,100 local public libraries and branches statewide. The program is free to students and their families. Students can visit their local library to engage in reading and educational activities for fun and enrichment. There are a variety of options for student participation at their own interest and ability level.

Last year, 2.1 million students participated in the summer reading program and we hope to grow that number this year. As you know, research shows that when children read over the summer, it helps them build literacy skills, prevent summer learning loss, and prepare for a successful school year. Please ask your administrators, educators, and school personnel to encourage all students to enroll in a free summer reading program this summer at your local library.

You and your district's teachers can contact your local public library or public library system for additional resources. For a list of public library systems and summer reading contact information please see: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/youthsvs/roster.htm>.

For more information about the summer reading program, including downloadable materials and resources for students and parents, visit: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/>.

If you have any questions, please contact the program coordinator, Sharon Phillips, Library Development Specialist at the New York State Library at: Sharon.Phillips@nysed.gov or 518-486-4863.