

# 5

## WAYS

EDUCATORS CAN  
ACCELERATE LEARNING  
THIS SUMMER



+



MATH

READING

When students are struggling, many educators consider summer learning programs to provide necessary accelerated efforts. By offering students personalized, real-time support, educators can help students get back on track to meet their grade-level goals by fall. Below are five ways that educators can identify those missing pieces, support students for learning recovery, motivate them to re-engage in school and help students accelerate their learning.



### 1 Provide differentiated instruction and practice to all students

Educators understand that every student has unique learning needs and different levels of knowledge. These variations make it challenging for classroom teachers to provide each student with the targeted support necessary to address individual needs. Furthermore, unfinished learning experiences during recent years have exacerbated the existing achievement gaps.

Summer school teachers may be unfamiliar with specific students or teaching a subject outside of their everyday scope. So, it's beneficial to implement personalized learning programs that offer diagnostic or formative assessments to capture insight into learning needs. By adopting programs and technology that personalize student learning, classroom teachers can quickly differentiate and personalize instruction. As a result, they can provide the most effective and meaningful learning experiences for every student.

### 2 Use data to determine student needs, plan summer programs and measure student success

Summer learning programs often run for six to eight weeks. Educators must move efficiently to develop the most effective instruction on this accelerated timeline. Student data can help identify learning needs, build intervention groups and determine instructional plans early in the program. As educators track and measure student progress toward learning goals, they can adapt and adjust learning plans for rapid intervention and prepare students for school in the fall.

Programs that offer real-time data reporting for each student allow educators to:

- Access actionable data to measure progress
- Communicate with stakeholders about student strengths and areas of improvement
- Determine program efficacy for future implementation models

### 3 Student-centric learning environments engage students, especially during the summer

In recent years, students have experienced the most challenging periods of their academic careers. In the wake of these unpredictable times, many students feel disengaged, overwhelmed and fatigued. Educators can help drive engagement by adopting summer learning programs that provide student-centered learning environments.

Programs that offer personalized instruction and adaptive technology keep students working within their zone of proximal development. As a result, students always work at the appropriate level and are neither bored by instruction that is too easy nor frustrated by content that is too difficult. Personalized learning environments meet students where they are, so they feel challenged throughout the learning journey and motivated to succeed.

### 4 Motivation is critical for successful summer learning and beyond

Educators can select summer programs that offer student agency throughout instructional content. Engagement research indicates that when students own their learning through the power of choice, they're more intrinsically motivated, which drives academic achievement.

Classroom teachers can achieve higher levels of motivation in ELA classrooms by providing a range of texts that expand students' interests and build background knowledge. Students will better understand and connect with the world around them. In other classrooms, students can select which topics and lessons to work on so they remain invested in the learning experience.

### 5 Prioritize social and emotional learning in instruction

Over two decades of research demonstrates that social and emotional learning (SEL) improves students' academic performance, classroom behavior, ability to manage stress and attitudes about themselves and school. Programs that incorporate SEL allow students to understand and manage emotions, establish positive relationships, set goals and feel empathy for others.

Educators can weave SEL instruction into summer learning programs across multiple subject areas. They can help students understand and empathize with others by providing high-quality content that supports equity, diversity and inclusion. Helping students set weekly goals and monitor their progress. They'll learn responsible decision-making skills and establish positive relationships with their instructors. Summer programs can also leverage adaptive technology that creates the perfect amount of productive struggle. Students get to practice critical grit and perseverance skills, gaining confidence along the way.



Learn more about how DreamBox can support summer learning efforts by visiting [dreambox.com/summer](https://dreambox.com/summer)



© 2023 DreamBox Learning, Inc.  
All rights reserved.