Summer Learning for COVID Recovery: Lessons from RIDE's Summer 2020 Programming

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RHODE ISLAND

Background

RIDE launched new summer learning opportunities in summer 2020 to help students impacted by COVID. As we look to summer 2021, we should decide how to apply the lessons from last summer to this summer.

- RIDE used federal CARES Act funds in summer 2020 to fund:

  - In-person programming

  - Summer Academy for Interactive Learning (SAIL) with PrepareRI

    - Enrichment opportunities

    - Readiness courses in math/ELA

- Over 14,000 Rhode Island students participated in these programs last summer

  - That's nearly 10% of the total statewide student enrollment (143,789 students in 2019-20)

In-Person Programming

Funding to help offset the increased costs with safely running in-person summer programming for Rhode Island children.

- Background

  - Open to organizations that had a COVID-19 Summer Camp Plan approved by the RI Department of Human Services (DHS)

  - The funding help offset the increased costs due to COVID precautions (e.g. purchase of masks for students and staff)

  - Prioritized programs that serve children in elementary schools and urban core communities

- Impact

  - 122 programming opportunities approved across the state from 70 different providers

  - We served 9,042 students statewide and had opportunities for up to 16,507 students to participate

- Sample programs

  - Pre-K transition, Boys and Girls Clubs, Parks and recreation departments, work-based opportunities, tutoring

SAIL with PrepareRI - Summary

RIDE offered hundreds of free online summer learning opportunities, including both enrichment and academic courses. This built on RIDE's successful All Course Network (ACN) model.

- Background

  - RIDE launched the All Course Network (ACN) a few years ago to provide a statewide course catalog of courses for students. Students can take free courses offered by non-profits, private colleges, and other schools.

  - In summer 2020, RIDE launched the Summer Academy for Interactive Learning (SAIL) with PrepareRI program. This built on the ACN platform, but offered a wider variety of courses (including more enrichment classes), and all programming was virtual.

- Results

  - 75 providers funded; 430 learning opportunities offered

  - 6,795 learning opportunities taken (2,078 in Readiness courses, 4,717 in other courses)

  - More than 4,000 unique students served; 30% of students from urban core districts

- Sample providers: Roger Williams Zoo, Providence Children's Museum, Trinity Repertory Theater, MobileQuest STEM, URI, RIC, CCRI, RISD, Brown University, College Crusade, Jumpstart Coalition, ARISE, Mass Insight, etc.

SAIL with PrepareRI - Readiness Project courses

The most popular courses on SAIL were RIDE's Readiness Project courses. These courses taught the math and ELA skills students need for the transition to high school and college.

- Background

  - Offered courses in 9th grade math, 9th grade ELA, 12th grade math, and 12th grade ELA

  - The course was developed by WestEd, a nationally-recognized curriculum provider. The 12th grade math class aligned to RIC's remedial Math 010 course, and used the URI/RIC math placement exam.

  - Total enrollment: 1,686 students. This a similar enrollment to a mid-sized RI district (e.g. North Smithfield).

  - 6% of eligible students statewide enrolled. Over 10% of all rising RI 9th graders in the state enrolled in the courses.

  - Higher representation of students of color and students from urban core in the courses. Compared to all teachers in the state, readiness teachers were less likely to be white and more likely to be male.

- Results

  - 12th grade math: students that took both the pre- and post-test increased their score by an amount equivalent to 55 SAT points. Students who started more behind showed larger growth (comparable to a 100-point SAT increase). 9th math showed 15 percentage point increase on pre/post test.

  - ELA students showed statistically significant growth on rubrics of reader identity, reading comprehension, and use of metacognitive strategies

What's new since last summer?

- Launch of an improved platform for ACN course registration: EnrollRI.org

  - EnrollRI is a new one-stop-shop educational opportunities. The platform launched in December 2020 and currently includes the registration systems for ACN courses and charter schools. We aim to include more enrollment and registration systems on the site going forward.

  - The new platform makes it easier for students to search and register for courses. It provides more functions and data on the backend for course providers as well.

- Including free live tutoring options on the ACN

  - In January, RIDE launched a partnership with Schoolhouse.world, Khan Academy's sister organization that offers offer free live tutoring for students in high school math and SAT prep.

  - Students can register for Schoolhouse tutoring on the ACN now