



2020 Summer Programs Report

To: Program and School Services Committee

Date: 7 October, 2020

Report No.: 10-20-3962

Strategic Directions

- Transform Student Learning
- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students
- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being

Recommendation

It is recommended that the 2020 Summer Programs Report be received.

Context

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all Toronto District School Board (TDSB) programs for the 2020 summer term were offered remotely. Toronto Public Health and Ministry of Education guidelines at the time, precluded programs such as Outdoor Education and TDSB Summer Music Camps from being available to students; however, in addition to offering most of its summer programs, Continuing Education was able to pilot the Remote Summer Credit Recovery Program for secondary school students and offer adult general interest programs online for the first time.

More than 37,000 children, youth and adult learners in all wards across the city benefited from Continuing Education's wide range of online remote offerings and expanded their learning in a variety of academic and general interest programs.

Elementary Opportunities

- **Early Years**
Across 10 TDSB sites, over 300 students, ages 3 to 7 participated in the remote Journey to Success Early Years Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Summer Learning Program. Journey to Success connects play and learning to children's identity and interests, while affirming families and their communities as partners within the learning journey. This summer learning experience focused on embedding strong literacy and numeracy practices for student development through Africentric and Culturally Relevant and Responsive frameworks.

A special component of this remote learning program was a resource package that each participating family received. The resource package was centred around their child(ren)'s unique lived experiences, identity and culture and included a variety of picture books and materials to support literacy and numeracy development through play and inquiry. Alongside the curricular experiences, Journey to Success students and families had the opportunity to engage in rich and relevant learning with community-based arts educators. Each site participated in virtual African Drumming, Storytelling, Visual Arts and Reggaecise sessions where children were able to extend their understanding of self and explore methods of creative expression. Throughout the summer learning, capacity-building sessions were provided to educators to deepen their understanding of Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy (CRRP), principles of Africentricity, teaching and learning using online platforms, and establishing responsive relationships through remote learning environments.

- **Special Education**

Special Education programs welcomed approximately 370 students remotely at five virtual school sites this summer. The summer school programs offered included Physical Disability classes Grades 1 to 8, Deaf Hard of Hearing classes Grades 1 to 8 and Developmental Disability classes Grades 1 to 12. Each remote summer school program was supported by a Principal, between 11 and 13 teachers and two Child and Youth Workers (CYW). Each site published a weekly newsletter which included educational resources, links to community agencies, TDSB Virtual Library and technology support. Each student was given a sensory kit that was used throughout the program. To provide students, as well as families/caregivers, with multiple means by which to engage and participate in distance learning, both synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning opportunities were embedded throughout the program. A predictable weekly schedule was created and implemented at each site whereby each day included a variety of activities such as a morning circle, drop-in activities, target teaching, self-directed learning, a movement break and goodbye circle. CYW staff members offered weekly drop-in sessions focused on social skills and self-regulation to each team for a total of four sessions each week.

- **Elementary Literacy and Numeracy**

This year, approximately 9,100 students participated in the Remote Learning Summer School Program offered to elementary school students in Grades 3 to 8. Programs were locally developed to best respond to the needs and interests of each school community. Literacy and Numeracy learning was embedded within a variety of subject areas such as STE(A)M, Arts and Global Competencies. Students had the opportunity to engage in rich and relevant learning with community-based arts educators through storytelling, visual arts, African drumming, and reggae/socasize. All these experiences were grounded in an equitable, culturally relevant and Africentric standpoint.

- **International Languages Elementary and African Heritage**

The summer International Languages Elementary & African Heritage programs offered half-day instruction remotely in 29 languages to nearly 4,000 TDSB and non-TDSB students from across the city. American Sign Language, Armenian, Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Cantonese, Farsi, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin (Simplified and Traditional), Marathi, Macedonian, Nepalese, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Sanskrit, Spanish,

Tagalog, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu were offered. Following much interest, two African Heritage classes were offered for the first time. The African Heritage program highlighted Black culture and contributions of people of African descent.

- **2020 Summer International Technology Program – Focus on Coding & STEM**

International students aged 7 to 17 joined the first international online program offered by Continuing Education. Students embarked on a journey of creativity and innovation through an inquiry-based online learning experience. Through synchronous and asynchronous instruction and feedback, students improved their English and coding while exploring creative ways to plan and design their STEM projects. The students were engaged and developed their coding skills throughout the program. Each student created an interactive videogame as their final project.

Secondary Opportunities

- **International Education - Integrated Orientation and Summer School**

The TDSB offered online orientation and summer school for new international students joining the TDSB for the 2020-2021 school year. Nearly 300 new international high school students enrolled in this online program. Academic programming included courses in English as a Second Language, Family Studies and Designing Your Future through BrightSpace, and engagement programming was also part of the program through the online platform. A total of 183 credits were earned.

- **Secondary Credit Summer School**

More than 3,800 students across the city attended credit programs to earn missing credits, change pathways, reach ahead or receive credits not available in their day schools. Ten Secondary Credit schools offered online credit courses to the system including reach-ahead credits to incoming Grade 9 students. Additional opportunities included experiential learning through summer co-op, and partnerships with five university and college programs. Students successfully earned a total of 3,057.5 credits.

- **Secondary Credit e-Learning**

Enrolment in e-Learning more than doubled this summer with close to 13,900 students from across Ontario enrolling in high school courses. Areas of study included Business, Computer Studies, Canadian Studies, Social Sciences, Mathematics, Physical Education and Sciences. Many of the Grade 11 and 12 courses were offered at several levels to meet a wide variety of learning needs. Supports such as Child and Youth Workers and Educational Assistants were added to promote student success. The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course was also offered, which allowed students to complete the OSSLT graduation requirement. Overall, 11,984 credits were earned by students in the July and August sessions.

- **Remote Summer Credit Recovery**

Over 3,000 students participated in the first TDSB Remote Summer Credit Recovery Program. The intent of this program was to support students in credit accumulation. Students who earned credits in this program had failed one or more courses over the last two years. Students were provided individual check-ins, crisis support,

advocacy and student-teacher mediation by Child and Youth Workers and Child and Youth Counsellors. In total 2,876 credits were recovered.

- **Focus on Youth**

This summer, the Ministry of Education supported opportunities to engage and re-engage students in communities across the city through a variety of activities during the challenging COVID-19 restrictions. The initiatives focused on student access to supports that foster mental health and well-being. The program provided summer employment opportunities for 75 TDSB students. Student positions were offered in various remote settings, along with on-site student caretaking positions. More than 600 participants joined online cultural and educational programs in which Focus on Youth student employees were placed.

In addition to employment, identified student groups were provided with summer and back to school support focusing on student success such as the purchase of technology for student use and nutrition support through grocery gift cards. Additional staff positions such as Child and Youth Workers, Child and Youth Counsellors and Classroom Assistants were funded to help promote student retention and success in remote summer credit programs.

Adult Opportunities

- **Adult High School**

Online credit courses were offered to nearly 1,500 adult learners who enrolled in two of the five adult high schools. These programs enabled adult learners working on their Ontario Secondary School Diploma requirements to continue their learning through the summer. A total of 916 credits were earned.

- **Adult ESL**

Over 500 learners enrolled in the three week Adult ESL program this summer. Classes were conducted for three hours every day. Both students and instructors were enthusiastic about remote learning and everyone learned from the experience. A variety of topics were covered according to student needs and learners completed 2 Portfolio-Based Learning Assessment (skill assessment) tasks for their language learning portfolios.

- **Community Programs - General Interest**

In an effort to continue to deliver quality programming to learners during these unprecedented times, Learn4Life introduced online classes in July. More than 230 learners registered and participated in a variety of summer online courses and learned new skills, picked up a new hobby and stayed engaged, active and healthy in the process. Course offerings included Gentle Fitness, Investor Boot Camp, Pizza Making Workshop, and a variety of Language classes.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

N/A

Resource Implications

N/A

Communications Considerations

N/A

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

PO19 – Continuing Education

Appendices

N/A

From

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