



All of us at REL Appalachia condemn the violent attacks on innocent students and educators in Uvalde, Black community members in Buffalo, and victims of other senseless tragedies across the country. In their memory, we rededicate our commitment to evidence-based strategies for making schools and communities safe places to thrive and belong. We hope [our resources](#), as well as those from [Youth.gov](#) and the [National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments](#), can support families, schools, and communities as they address local needs.

## Supporting students through summer

We've reached the end of a challenging year. Congratulations are certainly in order, educators! **You've supported students in adjusting to in-person classes, connecting or reconnecting with their peers, and making academic gains.** Sure, there have been bumps and hiccups along the way, but students are in a better place now than they were a year ago. Now you can embark on a well-deserved summer of rest, rejuvenation, and reflection.

While celebrating, let's also consider **how to continue the momentum** built over the past school year and support students' learning over the summer. Did you know there are many [promising and equitable strategies](#) to ensure continuity of learning while school is out?

We may think of camps and enrichment programs as "typical" summer experiences for kids and youth, and yet these are not accessible for all families. Enrollment costs, transportation, and family members' work schedules are often obstacles to students' participation. How can districts and schools help families minimize or overcome such obstacles?

In this newsletter, we share some **free and accessible resources** that district and school leaders, teachers, community members, and others can use to keep students learning over the summer and sustain their momentum into the fall.

## Zooming in: Resources for summer learning



Start with REL Appalachia's handy [REL Corner on summer learning](#) which highlights resources that education leaders and practitioners can use to plan for and implement evidence-based and equitable summer programs or to share with families and other community members. Consider including the REL Corner resources in your communications to educators and families throughout the summer. If you are unable to implement these ideas this summer, these

resources can inspire summer programming in future years.

And mark your calendars! National Summer Learning Week takes place July 11–15, and the National Summer Learning Association is [chock full of ideas](#) on how to participate.

## Around the region: Easy-to-implement summer learning ideas

We asked some of our regional partners what creative summer learning looks like in their areas, beyond traditional summer school programming. They offered resources for inspiring kids, engaging families and communities, and ensuring equitable access for all students. Explore whether any of these resonate with you as ideas you can implement or adapt locally.



The [Kentucky Collaborative for Families and Schools](#) curated family-supportive student activities to keep learning moving forward, including the [PBS KIDS Family & Community Learning model](#) for grades K–3 and the [Summer Learning suite](#) for grades 6–12, ready to share on social media and integrate into Google Classroom. And [Wayne County Schools](#) educator Jamie Reagan connects families to [Standards Family Guides](#) to inform them about learning expectations for their students' next grade level.

The [Tennessee Department of Education](#) published a [summer programming planning toolkit](#) that includes support for logistics (staffing, attendance, advertising) as well as sample weekly instructional course sequences.



In Virginia, [Goochland County Public Schools](#) educators are offering [optional intersessions](#)—multiday learning experiences that combine literacy, research, creativity, and fun in order to fuse student interest and teacher passion. And the [Virginia Department of Education](#) compiled a [list of resources and activities](#) by content area to keep student learning alive in the summer.

The [West Virginia Family Engagement Center](#) shared that [Preston County Schools](#) will deploy a [Learning in Motion Bus](#) to engage families in hands-on learning experiences in the community. The bus will deliver books to the homes of prekindergarten to grade 3 students along with family activity ideas for each book.



Also **consider light-lift ways to engage students and families**. Connect students to free digital book subscriptions or apps through school or community library resources and issue a fun reading challenge. Tweet some of the resources in this newsletter to families in bite-sized chunks throughout the summer. Challenge students to enter an essay contest, invent a solution to a real-world problem, or create a virtual world in a popular game based on provided design specifications —the sky's the limit!

# The REL on the road



We're kicking off a lot of new and exciting activities with our partners in our region. July 12–13, in Frankfort, Kentucky: REL Appalachia is partnering with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to provide summer professional learning for educators on integrating social-emotional learning into math instruction. If you're an interested Kentucky K-12 educator, stay tuned for more information.

## Connect with us!

To get the latest news and updates about our region, [follow us on Twitter](#). We invite you to tag us @REL\_Appalachia and share your plans and strategies to support students with their #SummerLearning. If you have stories, successes, challenges, or other feedback you'd like to share, please reach out to [REL.Appalachia@sri.com](mailto:REL.Appalachia@sri.com). We'd love to hear from you!

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