

A. Please see the attached action plan (Annex B) that shows steps taken to strengthen the Worcester Public Schools Summer Reading Program and plans to continue enhancing the program based on current research and data.

1. No changes were made in Summer 2016 from previous summer reading requirements. No titles were removed from the reading lists.
2. In Summer 2016 the only changes were: a new look to the brochures that were vertically aligned and provided reading supports, additional suggested titles and activities, as well as digital resources and parental supports.
3. Any suggested book recommendations School Committee would like to make to enhance the current reading lists can appear on the Summer Reading Website. Space is limited on the brochures due to the addition of parental supports and reading strategies for students; adding to what is printed would take away from these supports.
4. For Summer 2017 we plan on further developing the digital resources, providing professional development for teachers and Focus Instructional Coaches, strengthening community partnerships and community outreach, and gathering data from the pilot study for future recommendations.
5. As national awards are presented and MA School Library Association recommendations are made, the suggested titles on the Summer Reading Website may be updated to include high quality contemporary literature. At the present time, no changes will be made to the recommendations provided on the Summer Reading Brochures, which include all titles from past Worcester Public Schools reading lists.

B. Collaboration with Dr. Lauren Capotosto of Holy Cross:

1. Summer reading expert, currently researching public school summer reading programs in high and low socio-economic communities.
2. Former student of and collaborator with Dr. Kim of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, national leading expert on summer reading programs.
3. Constructed a research-based pilot study for engaging traditionally disengaged middle school students, which will be piloted in one grade in one school.
4. The pilot study at Burncoat Middle School is being implemented for the purposes of providing corrective recommendations for engaging all students and to create a robust, researched-based program that builds upon and strengthens the skills students acquire and practice during the academic year.

Dr. Capotosto is available and interested in presenting to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports on the pilot study as well as current research data, evidence, and findings on effective summer reading programs for urban youth.