

Summer school in 2018 was comprehensive. It was structured based on grant funding and the related parameters. Breakfast and lunch were available at all sites. Busing was included.

Secondary Opportunities

Students in grades 8 through 12 had a credit buyback program to support students staying on track for graduation. This was available at each of the high schools and middle schools just after school closed.

The state awarded Forest Grove a grant for transitioning students from grades 6 to 7. The principal designed a program that welcomed sixth graders by school and introduced them to the expectations and routines of middle school. You Inc. provided related experiential learning.

In addition, English learners at North High and New Citizens Center at New Ludlow had an academic support program that included an artist in residence from the Worcester Center for Crafts.

Elementary Opportunities

The elementary summer program continued again with 2 options, Camp Explore and Camp Invention.

The lowest performing schools had the option again to attend "Camp Explore" mornings for 3 weeks. There were 8 sites with busing available. Literacy, math and science (e.g., states of matter) were the focus with activity based learning a priority. The arts were also included at each site. English learners received instruction daily from an ESL teacher. In 2018, we reverted to a two tier bus schedule in response to parent feedback that the third tier was too late for working families. We also expanded to include students entering grades 1 through 6 to ensure all school age siblings could attend. Additionally, students entering grades 4 through 6 in the summer of 2018 had a week of "Learn to Skate" lessons at a local ice rink.

Camp Invention, a grant from ABVIE to the National Inventors Hall of Fame, continued as an option for students across the district for the second year. This program was housed again at Chandler Magnet and Clark Street schools and ran for two weeks. The focus was on engineering through hands on activities.

For both programs, bus stops again, by design, included Recreation Worcester sites and we coordinated with the city to register students. The Worcester Public Library book mobile visited sites as they have each summer.

Additionally, Elm Park Community School received a grant from the state to support students transitioning from preschool to kindergarten. The school principal and staff designed a program to acclimate students to their new setting using age appropriate, engaging activities.

The immigrant students who attend the New Citizen Elementary program at Clark Street School spent 2 weeks with their classroom teacher at Camp Blanchard prior to attending summer school. When summer school began, they attended the YMCA for swimming lessons after lunch.

The elementary schools with the highest English Learner populations offered a "Welcome to Kindergarten" program for families prior to school opening. This was the second year of the program which is intended to support parents and students in the transition to school. Interpreters were available and the events included a cultural performance chosen by the school community.

Community Partners

The grants office initiated an RFP process for community agencies to apply to offer summer learning experiences to our immigrant students. This was made possible through a state grant and allowed us to coordinate and extend summer programming opportunities for our students. The WPS was able to accept all applications. Our students then had access to additional summer programming, specifically:

African Community Education = \$20,000

WSU-LEI = \$20,000

Cultural Exchange Through Soccer = \$9,500

Southeast Asian Coalition = \$9,000

Family Services of Central Massachusetts = \$9,500