

## Office of the Mayor Health and Human Services

Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity | December 2021



Photo credit: Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office

# Summer Rising

Agencies: **DYCD/DECE** and **DYCD/Department of Education**

## Context

Summer Rising met a critical need for students on the heels of an extraordinary year shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many students had faced significant challenges throughout the pandemic, including disruption of the traditional in-person school day and after school experiences. Summer Rising 2021 was therefore designed as a summer experience that featured opportunities for young people to learn, to get outside, and engage with peers and caring adults readying them for a return to school in September 2021.

## Response

Summer Rising 2021 was developed and offered to all New York City students K-12. This free summer program was designed to re-engage students with in-person academic and enrichment experiences, and to prepare for back-to-school in the Fall of 2021 after a year when all DOE

schools were closed. For K to 8, Summer Rising mixed DOE academic learning with DYCD-funded enrichment programs. Students participated in DOE and CBO-led activities in the morning, followed by lunch and CBO-led enrichment in the afternoons, including creative arts, leadership, literacy, recreation, STEM and more. The High School program offered students flexible schedules to engage in summer work opportunities, complete graduation requirements, or retake any courses failed in a prior year. High Schools offered, for example, college preparation and arts programming, with a focus on providing social emotional support and outreach to students.

## Results

- Overall, Summer Rising served 199,000 K to 12 students:
  - 73% Black or Hispanic
  - 78% eligible for free or reduced-price lunch
  - 24% students with IEPs
  - 18% English language learners
  - 11% students in temporary housing
  - 1% students in foster care
- For K-8, DYCD funded 799 programs in 547 school buildings to serve 100,000 students. DOE partnered with all 799 DYCD-affiliated programs to provide academic support.
- Approximately 80% of all grade 6-8 student respondents to a survey administered by DOE agreed or strongly agreed that the work in their summer classes helped build academic skills (82%), taught them something new (82%), and helped them feel ready for school in the fall (78%).
- The vast majority of Summer Rising student respondents felt welcomed (86%), respected by adults at their site (90%), and reported they had regular opportunities to interact with other students (81%).

## Beneficiary Stories

*“Using the flexibility afforded by Summer Rising, this principal ‘based [their Summer Rising program] on what I knew my students needed.’ Students were able to engage in social-emotional learning, recreation activities, and academic learning geared towards areas of growth specific to the students.”*

One elementary school principal told us that by building on their previous relationship, they were able to work closely with the CBO to build a program that worked for the school's students and helped address learning loss. Using the flexibility afforded by Summer Rising, this principal "based [their Summer Rising program] on what I knew my students needed." Students were able to engage in social-emotional learning, recreation activities, and academic learning geared towards areas of growth specific to the students. This principal continued, "For example, in phonics, K-1 is always lacking in phonemic awareness. They know how to sing alphabet but don't know sounds of letters or rhyming...I was able to focus on skills teachers during school year skim over, and what they needed more than anything. That was beneficial."

## Next Steps

The results of DOE's and DYCD's program evaluations will be used to collaboratively plan for Summer Rising 2022.

## Additional Metrics

- 49% of participating students attended a Summer Rising program in person after attending school remotely in SY 2019-20
- For the 22 days that included academic instruction
  - 33% of students in grades K-5 attended 20+ days
  - 42% of students in grades K-5 attended 11-20 days
  - 18% of students in grades 6-8 attended 20+ days
  - 50% of students in grades 6-8 attended 11-20 days
- 82% of all staff respondents to a survey administered by DOE agreed or strongly agreed that student participants improved their social emotional skills
- 76% of all staff respondents agreed or strongly agreed that student participants were more academically prepared to start school in the fall

## Relevant Publications

- **Mayor De Blasio Updates New Yorkers About Free Childcare Options For The Fall** (July 16, 2020)  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/525-20/mayor-de-blasio-free-childcare-100-000-students-the-fall>