



Evidence-based tools and guidance
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GUIDANCE FOR TIP SHEET: SELECTING AND MODIFYING SUMMER CURRICULA

This document provides guidance on how to use the Selecting and Modifying Summer Curricula tip sheet available in the Summer Learning Toolkit. You can also access the tip sheet in the Academics and Enrichment section of the Toolkit.

What is the *SELECTING AND MODIFYING SUMMER CURRICULA* tip sheet and how can you use it?

Developed by Bellwether Education Partners, this tip sheet guides summer program leaders through the important task of deciding whether to select and/or modify curriculum for the summer program. Guiding questions on the first page of the tip sheet are designed to ground a curriculum search in the goals, structure, and resources of the program and the capabilities and professional development needs of staff. The table on the second page offers a framework of options to consider based on whether the program's goals are remediation, differentiated instruction, or new and innovative learning opportunities.

Why are common written curricula important?

RAND found that adopting a common written curriculum for English language arts and mathematics that matches students' academic needs and abilities is necessary for high-quality instruction. While a common curriculum provides teachers with the building blocks they need to be successful with very little planning time, according to RAND, effective and engaging academic and enrichment programs also take care to:

- Engage school designers to assess the alignment of curriculum to the hours of the program and make adaptations, create pacing guides, and identify strategies and materials to support differentiation for different skill levels;
- Ensure that enrichment instructors have written lesson plans that include sequenced activities that will involve all or most students in an activity during most of the activity period;
- Order and distribute curriculum in time to disseminate and use at professional development sessions for summer program teachers; and
- Order and distribute supplies in advance of the program start date to ensure they arrive in time for pre-program training sessions and professional development.

Who can benefit from this resource?

- District central office managers
- School-based program leaders
- Nonprofit program leaders

