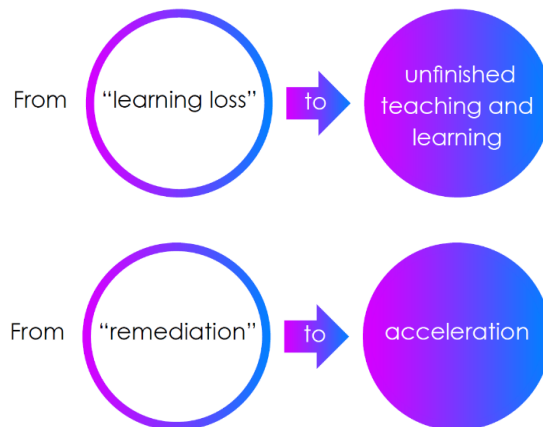


# Delaware Strategy to Accelerate Learning

## Overview

The mission of the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) is to empower every learner with the highest quality education through shared leadership, innovative practices and exemplary services. Our instructional vision is that every student in Delaware will leave school ready for college, career, and life. Teachers must provide students with high-quality, standards-aligned instruction every day, and district and school leaders must provide teachers with standards-aligned instructional materials and high-quality professional learning.

There is no doubt the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted students' experiences this school year. Even so, teachers, school leaders, and school support staff continue to provide students with opportunities to learn while also caring for students' physical, social, and emotional needs. Despite a disrupted school year, the DDOE has focused on shifting the narrative in the following ways to signal action grounded in a growth mindset:



Implementation of the Delaware Strategy to Accelerate Learning requires school districts and school systems to target resources to support FOUR CORE ACTIONS:

1. Adopt and use high-quality instructional materials to bring coherence and consistency to instructional vision and academic planning.
2. Provide school leaders and teachers with the initial and ongoing professional learning needed to provide Tier 1 instruction to all students, including understanding how to diagnose and address student learning needs.
3. Implement a balanced assessment system and leverage data that supports teachers in diagnosing unfinished learning and providing the necessary scaffolds to ensure all students have access to grade level instruction.
4. Reexamine and create support structures to accelerate student learning within the context of high-quality instructional materials (e.g., summer learning acceleration, extended school day/year, high-dosage tutoring, refining or revising existing policies, procedures, and programs, etc.).

### Key Components of the Delaware Strategy to Accelerate Learning



#### System Considerations:

Systems considerations integrate data, technology, and infrastructure to reexamine traditional school systems and structures. Systems considerations integrate the whole child needs with academic needs.



#### High-Quality Instructional Materials & Content:

High-quality instructional materials create coherence, offer consistency across all learning environments, and support student voice and social-emotional health. The predictable structure of coherent, consistent instructional materials and content are foundational for teachers and students alike.



#### Diagnosing Unfinished Teaching & Learning:

Because of a disrupted school year, unfinished teaching and learning may impact students' progress towards mastery of grade-level content. Determining the content that may not have been taught is critical to moving to grade-level content as quickly as possible. Leveraging data from multiple sources provides insight into what students know, what they don't know, and addresses misconceptions about what students think they know.



#### Planning for Acceleration:

When planning for the summer, next school year, and the following school year, "meeting students where they are" will not be enough. A mindset of "acceleration, not remediation" is needed so that students are met with grade-level expectations while also addressing students' social and emotional needs.



#### Ensuring Equitable Instruction:

Leaders and teachers must continue to assess the extent to which the academic and social-emotional needs of historically marginalized student groups are addressed and ensure all students have equitable access and success in their learning opportunities. Special attention must also be paid to the Class of 2021 to ensure students graduate with postsecondary plans.



#### Professional Learning for Teachers & School Leaders:

The traditional structures in which educators learn must be adapted to support teaching and learning. Content-specific professional learning that accelerates all students' learning must support educators as they build knowledge and skills while ensuring their own sense of self-efficacy and social-emotional health and learning.

## DDOE support for Learning Acceleration for Students

The DDOE is committed to making the right choice the easy choice. To that end, DDOE is excited to provide all Delaware public schools with five resources to support learning acceleration for students in literacy and mathematics beginning Summer 2021 - Professional Learning and Summer Booster content for literacy acceleration (K-5), student access to online text repository (K-12), access to Zearn Math licenses (K-7), Zearn Professional Learning, and high-dosage-tutoring seats.

### Literacy Acceleration for Students

Preliminary data has shown that COVID-19-related school closures have profoundly magnified unfinished teaching and learning for our youngest readers, especially in marginalized communities. Substantive research has shown that students need to be taught to read based on cognitive science. We know that Delaware educators have received mixed training on the science of reading or are using strategies that lack alignment to this approach. Furthermore, high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) are a key lever in giving students a systematic and explicit reading foundational skills experience, and there is currently mixed access to and implementation of such materials across the state.

To support schools with literacy acceleration, the DDOE will provide access to Summer Booster content and training for Delaware public school educators to implement their HQIM core accelerated literacy curriculum integrating the Science of Reading concepts. The DDOE will also provide students access to a robust online text repository.

#### The literacy acceleration trainings will

- ✓ Support educators who are using HQIMs to teach literacy based on the Science of Reading to apply this knowledge through their curriculum resources in an accelerated summer program
- ✓ Provide support to districts that do not currently have access to strongly sequenced HQIMs in using Open Education Resources (OER) to support students in literacy instruction through the Science of Reading in an accelerated summer program

#### Specifically, these trainings will

- ✓ Provide teachers with an introductory level foundational knowledge and skill set for Science of Reading instruction (asynchronous module)
- ✓ Provide teachers with additional live remote training that is curriculum-specific and differentiated for systems based on HQIM core or OER instructional materials. These sessions to be provided through the following cohort models:
  - Free OER - Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) and Expeditionary Learning (EL) - Summer Booster provided by SchoolKit and TNTP
  - Districts already using American Reading Company (ARC) - Summer Booster provided by American Reading Company
  - Districts already using Bookworms - Bookworms Booster provided by UD (PDCE)

### Online Text Repository

The DDOE will provide student access to HQIM curriculum and OER online booklists for

- Kindergarten to Grade 8
  - ARC, Bookworms, CKLA, EL, ReadyGen
- High School
  - Developing Core Proficiencies, HMH Pearson, Into Literature, LearnZillion Guidebooks, My Perspectives, Springboard, StudySync

In addition to their e-book library collections, students will also have access to the e-book library collection of every Delaware Public Library without needing a library card.

### Mathematics Acceleration for Students

To support schools with mathematics acceleration, the DDOE will provide Delaware public schools with licenses to access Zearn Math for sSummer 2021 and the 2021-2022 school year. Zearn is used by students nationwide and rated green on EdReports as a high-quality mathematics instructional material with a strong digital learning component.

The DDOE will also offer comprehensive support through virtual professional learning provided by SchoolKit to support Zearn implementation. This professional learning will equip school leaders and teachers with the knowledge and skills needed to leverage Zearn in addressing unfinished teaching and learning. Zearn is aligned to Delaware's College and Career Ready Standards for Mathematics and reflects Delaware's Instructional Shifts for Mathematics. Zearn also supports Delaware Strategy to Accelerate Learning.

Zearn Summer Intensive Series leverages the essential mathematics content students should master before starting grades 1-8 and can be used flexibly across summer school models, tutoring programs, or targeted interventions. Summer access includes

- ✓ A 12-week summer intensive series with 30-minute daily lessons that can be adjusted to match the school schedule (i.e. 6 week with 60-minute sessions).
- ✓ Lessons designed to help students catch up on grade level mathematics learning, boosted with built-in foundational mathematics support to build a strong foundation for next school year.
- ✓ Embedded accessibility features to support English Language Learners and students with disabilities.
- ✓ Embedded daily diagnostic that assesses each student's understanding and automatically launches support.
- ✓ 24/7 digital student mathematics platform, including daily digital lessons with fluency, concept development, independent practice and built-in mathematics help.
- ✓ Unlimited access for all students, teachers, and schools.

Additional Zearn materials will also be accessible for the 2021-2022 school year to provide high-quality instructional materials for mathematics (grades 1-7) alongside HQIM core materials. Zearn will provide Kickstart Guidance for the 2021-2022 school year to strategically place support when content is offered. Zearn should **not** replace HQIM core materials, but it is based

on Eureka Math and Engage NY, and it can be used to support districts that do not currently have access to strongly sequenced HQIMs. In addition to the materials, Zearn includes

- ✓ Instructional resources that can be used by teachers and tutors to build deep understanding of concepts and flexible problem-solving skills.
- ✓ Embedded accessibility features to support English Language Learners and students with disabilities.
- ✓ Family resource center with explanations of key mathematics terms, suggested at-home activities, and tips for supporting children with digital lesson completion.

### Zearn Professional Learning

To support schools with mathematics acceleration, the DDOE will provide training for Delaware public school educators to implement Zearn Math. Zearn and SchoolKit will provide professional learning on the program's use and help schools identify and launch the right Zearn implementation model. This could include

- ✓ Integrating Zearn into summer school / tutoring programs.
- ✓ Effectively using Zearn alongside other mathematics high-quality instructional materials.
- ✓ Effectively communicating guidance and tools to families and educators for independent use.

The professional learning series will equip school leaders and teachers with the knowledge and skills needed to maximize Zearn usage through targeted support for district/system leaders, school leaders, and teachers.

### High-dosage tutoring seats

Rigorous research provides strong evidence that high-dosage tutoring can produce large learning gains for a wide range of students, including those who have fallen behind academically. A review of almost 200 rigorous studies found that high-dosage tutoring – defined as more than 3 days per week or at a rate of at least 50 hours over 36 weeks – is one of the few school-based interventions with demonstrated large positive effects on both mathematics and reading achievement.

To support schools with literacy and mathematics acceleration, the DDOE will seek third party vendors to provide seats to Delaware public schools for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 school year to support high-dosage tutoring for students who struggle the most.

### Summary

The DDOE remains committed to learning acceleration for students by providing support to all Delaware public schools in literacy and mathematics for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 school year. The **Delaware Strategy to Accelerate Learning** serves as a guide for our work with partners through the **four core actions** grounded in 1) high-quality instructional materials, 2) professional learning, 3) leveraging data, and 4) creating supportive structures that accelerate student learning. By providing resources to support learning acceleration, we have made literacy and mathematics resources, professional learning, and high-dosage tutoring easily accessible to all public schools in Delaware.