

To: School Superintendents and Principals

From: Robin Conti, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning
Office of Teaching and Learning

Date: May 26, 2020

Re: Guidance for establishing tutoring fellows program

Background:

Summer slide is a real, but not new, problem. Summer slide is a learning loss problem that affects thousands of students nationwide every year, resulting in learning declines ranging from several weeks or months to upwards of a year of instruction depending on grade and content area. Due to the abrupt closure of schools in March 2020, schools will likely experience an enhanced variation of the summer slide, aptly named, the COVID-19 slide.

According to research conducted by NWEA (2020), “preliminary COVID slide estimates suggest students will return in fall 2020 with roughly 70% of the learning gains in reading relative to a typical school year. However, in mathematics, students are likely to show much smaller learning gains, returning with less than 50% of the learning gains and in some grades, nearly a full year behind what we would observe in normal conditions.”

Guidance:

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) recognizes the COVID-19 slide as a serious concern for educators and families. IDOE encourages schools to be creative in addressing the remediation needs of all students. IDOE has developed the Indiana Tutoring Fellowship, a unique opportunity for qualified high school juniors and seniors to support learning opportunities in math and ELA for children in kindergarten through eighth grade to help prevent or slow the academic regression caused by COVID-19. This fellowship was developed to provide a mutually beneficial opportunity for both qualified high school students and elementary students who may need additional academic support.

Qualified high school fellows will be able to apply their tutoring hours to service-learning requirements for Indiana Graduation Pathways Bucket 2. This experience exemplifies the meaningful service that enriches and applies academic knowledge, teaches civic and personal responsibility, and strengthens community.

Information supporting Bucket 2 - Service-Based Learning Experiences

- K-12 Service Learning Standards for Quality Practice
- <https://www.nylc.org/page/standards>

Fellow Qualifications

- Must be a high school junior or senior
- 3.0 GPA or higher
- Must be in good behavior standing

Recommendations

- Recommended matching of the same gender.
- Recommended tutoring virtually; either by phone or video format.
- Social distancing rules apply if permitted to meet in person.
- If the student reveals abuse, neglect, concern for their own safety or safety of others in the household, or information about illegal activities in the house the fellow MUST record this information and report it to the supervising teacher immediately. If the fellow is 18 years of age the fellow is required to report to supervising teachers as well as the Department of Child Services or local law enforcement as required in IC 31-33-5-1.
- All communication via email or learning management system must have the student's teacher or fellows's teacher carbon-copied or included on all messages. No other form of communication (texting or social media) will be allowed.
- Fellows cannot friend or connect via social media with their tutoring students.

Please contact Robin Conti at rconti@doe.in.gov if you have any additional questions.

References

Kuhfeld, M. & Tarasawa, B. (2020). *The COVID-19 slide: What summer learning loss can tell us about the potential impact of school closures on student academic achievement*. NWEA.