

Summer School Program, 2004-2005

REIS05-160-4

At a Glance

Local and legal policies required Dallas Independent School District (DISD) to offer extended-year (Summer School) services. Students were able to enhance academic performance, recover course credit, and/or receive remedial instruction for Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) weaknesses. According to policy, students who attended at least 90% of the Summer School program days and demonstrated proficiency of course content at grade level were considered to have met extended-year requirements. Unlike previous Summer School Programs, this year only elementary students at risk of retention were permitted to participate in academic programming. Secondary students were permitted to attend academic programming with the consent of their counselor.

Summer School provided tuition-free extended traditional, special education, and bilingual instruction to increase student opportunities for success in reading, writing, and mathematics at the elementary level, and in the core instructional content areas at the secondary level. The 9-12 secondary program was tuition-based with a cost of \$70 per course. Students from other school districts were allowed to enroll for an additional fee of \$100 per course. Enrichment courses were also offered at all grade levels. All students were permitted to self-select into the enrichment programming.

Calendar, Curriculum, and Training

The Summer School elementary program began June 6 and ended July 1, for a total of 20 instructional days. For middle and high school students, Summer School began June 6 and ended July 14, for a total of 24 instructional days. To introduce teachers and principals to the Summer School guidelines and requirements the Extended

Year Office hosted a series of informational sessions in the spring.

Faculty and Staff

An objective of the program was to ensure that only qualified faculty was employed for Summer School. This goal was met. Standard and professional certifications made up forty-five percent of the total certificates held by faculty employed during the 2005 program. The number and percent by certification type are presented in Table 1.

Table 1
Faculty and Staff Certification Type

Certification Type	N	Percent (%)
Standard	946	35.4
Std. Professional.	93	0.4
Professional	248	9.3
Std. Paraprofessional	572	21.4
Paraprofessional	734	27.5
Provisional	74	2.8
Total	2,671	100.0

Student Summer School Eligibility

Students (26,041) were recommended to attend summer school by home school principals and counselors. Criteria used to identify students for the program were: recommendation, retention, below 40% on *Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)*, and *Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)*, and reading and/or math failure. Students and parents were notified of the attendance recommendation for Summer School prior to the end of the regular school year by letter or conference.

Of the students recommended to attend Summer School, 20,519 (79.0%) attended. The majority of these students were in grades K-6 but the highest percentage was in grade 5.

Sites and Attendance

There were 36 elementary, 10 middle, and 8 high schools that served as Summer School sites. Summer School enrollment consisted of 14,495 elementary school, 2,567 middle school, and 3,457 high school students. These totals included 280 elementary students participating in special education programs. Of the students attending general education, special education, and enrichment Summer School courses, 83.1%, 77.4%, and 81.4% respectively, met the established 90% attendance criteria.

Promotion and Retention

Promotion and retention data were available for 20,017 elementary students. Promotion and retention rates are presented in Table 2. Overall, 78.5% of these students were promoted. Promotion rates ranged from a low of 66.4% to a high of 93.1% by campus site. The overall passing rate for the 2,567 middle school students was 85.0%. The overall passing rate for the 3,457 high school students was 83.7%.

Table 2
Promotion Retention for Elementary
Students Recommended to Summer School

Attend	Promoted		Retained		No Record
	N	%	N	%	N
Yes	11,682	80.6	2,377	16.4	436
No	4,027	72.9	1,161	21.0	334
Total	15,709	78.5	3,538	17.7	770

TAKS Passing Rates

Of the 1,839 third grade students who had not passed *TAKS* reading prior to 2005 Summer School, 1,481 (80.5%) for the sole purpose of passing *TAKS*. Only 358 (19.5%) did not attend summer school programming for the sole purpose of passing *TAKS*. Of those that did attend summer school programming as a mean to pass *TAKS*, 66% were promoted, compared to 62% of those who did not attend summer school programming for that purpose. Statistically there was no difference between the two groups.

Among the 2,945 fifth graders who had not passed *TAKS* prior to Summer School, 2,445 were promoted; 82.2% of those

attending were promoted as compared to 13.9% of those not attending.

Among the 3,625 eighth graders who had not passed *TAKS* prior to Summer School, 3,369 were promoted. Of those who attended Summer School, 19.2% were promoted as compared to 80.3% of those who did not attend.

Principals' Survey

Principals indicated that they received adequate information in regards to:

- Enrollment procedures (64.6%);
- Programs goals and objectives (62.5%)
- School opening and closing (60.4%)

Areas of suggested improvements were: in the areas that follow:

- Allow Office of Institutional Research access for all campus administrators;
- Provide for extra counselors because many students need extra help;
- Allow the *TAKS* tests to be administered the last two days of summer school.

Secondary and Elementary Teacher Survey

Secondary and elementary teachers indicated that they received adequate information in regards to:

- Enrollment procedures (64.6%);
- Programs goals and objectives (62.5%)
- School opening and closing (60.4%)

Areas of suggested improvements were: in the areas that follow:

- Allow Office of Institutional Research access for all campus administrators;
- Provide for extra counselors because many students need extra help;
- Allow the *TAKS* tests to be administered the last two days of summer school.