

# Interim Guidance for Summer School and Enrichment Opportunities



May 21, 2021

*The public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, particularly given the opportunities for vaccination and the potential impact of virus variants. The Connecticut State Department of Education and State Department of Public Health have collaborated to provide schools with guidance and protocols for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) informs the following communication, which will be updated as needed as we move through the phases of this pandemic and its aftermath.*

As we approach the more hopeful months ahead and the potential for a summer of [learning and fun every day, everywhere](#), the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), and our colleagues in the Office of the Governor, the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), and Office of Policy and Management, are promoting an educational response focused on [renewal, reducing opportunity gaps, accelerating learning and advancing equity by providing access to supports, resources, and enhanced enrichment opportunities](#). This statewide response includes both traditional summer school and extended school year experiences, as well as expanded access to other programs over the 2021 summer.

## Operation of Summer School and Other Enrichment Programs

During the summer of 2021, we expect that Connecticut youth will have broad access to summer school, camp, and other enrichment opportunities. These options will be offered through anticipated expansion and innovation initiatives engaged by municipalities and school districts, as well as multiple community partners such as non-profit organizations, childcare centers, private and independent schools, and faith-based organizations.

Programs should implement rules based upon location/setting, type of activity, population, and type of program. **The CSDE highly recommends that all summer school and other enrichment programs are in-person, but encourages school districts to engage in thoughtful and thorough communication with families to address individualized requests or needs.** Where an entity operating a summer opportunity falls within multiple settings, the most restrictive rules should be followed. Please see below for the appropriate rules as you plan for summer school and other programming:

Setting	Guidance	Contact
Schools (PreK-12)	<a href="#">Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together, and related addendums</a> <a href="#">See OEC Memos</a> (PreK)	CSDE
Youth Camps, including Residential Camps	<a href="#">See OEC Memos</a>	OEC
Sports/Outdoor Activities	<a href="#">Updated Guidance for the Operation of Interscholastic, Youth and other Amateur Sport Activities during the COVID-19 Pandemic</a>	DPH, CIAC
Child Care Centers	<a href="#">See OEC memos</a>	OEC
Beaches, Pools	<a href="#">COVID19 Reopen Connecticut</a>	DPH

All programs must continue to be operated within state and federal law. In all settings, please ensure that all programs are in compliance with the suite of mitigation strategies employed during the pandemic, including universal indoor mask wearing, cohorting/limiting movement, ventilation, cleaning/disinfection, symptom-based exclusion and quarantine, and other strategies. At this time, **CSDE and DPH** continue to [require universal masking](#) in all indoor educational venues.

The [CDC Guidance on Schools and Childcare Settings](#), and **Readiness and Planning Tools for both Schools and Youth Camps**, provide general information for schools and communities to consider when implementing summer school and summer enrichment opportunities. It is suggested that the CDC guidance be visited often as it will be updated. Please note, however, that the [Connecticut rules regarding masking](#) supersede any CDC guidance, or other existing guidance, that may conflict or not have been updated fully yet to reflect the changed approach to masking. As existing guidance from the CDC and DPH is updated, we will notify you accordingly.

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