

Support for Students with Disabilities in K-8 Summer Rising Programs

Students with disabilities, including students who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan, are entitled to equal access to summer programming. Schools should take the following steps to ensure that all students receive the supports they need – which may include a paraprofessional or other accommodations – to fully access all aspects of Summer Rising, including during and after the instructional day.

- An administrator from a student’s home school must periodically review the RSMR and SSPR reports to identify any students with IEPs or 504 Plans who are enrolled in non-ESY Summer Rising programs and who may require additional support to fully participate in that program.
- The administrator should identify the teacher most familiar with the student’s needs, who will consider the student’s IEP or 504 recommendations to determine the level of support that will be needed in a Summer Rising program, during both DOE-led and Community-Based Organization (CBO)-led activities. The designated teacher should consult with the school 504 Coordinator or teachers or administrators as needed.
- If it has been determined that the student **does not** require any additional support for Summer Rising, no further action is needed.
- If it has been determined that the student **does** require additional support for Summer Rising, then the designated teacher (or IEP teacher in consultation with the teacher, or in consultation with the school 504 Coordinator for students with 504 Plans) must complete the [2021 Summer Rising Accommodation Plan](#) and submit it within **five (5) school days** of the student appearing on the SSPR. The Accommodation Plan:
 - Should be completed in consultation with parents/guardians;
 - Must specify the portions of the Summer Rising program when support will be required;
 - Must be shared with the parent/guardian;
 - Must be uploaded to SESIS as a “Document Related to IEP” and titled “2021 Summer Rising Accommodation Plan” (for students with IEPs) or uploaded to 504Accommodations@strongschools with the school-based 504 Plan (for students with 504 Plans); and
 - Must be sent by the home school administrator to the parent and to the principal-in-charge of the Summer Rising program, along with the student’s most recent IEP or 504 Plan.

For any child who has a 10-month IEP-assigned paraprofessional recommendation and who is participating in Summer Rising, if the home school determines that paraprofessional support is not required, the home school must communicate this to the family and consider parent perspective and input in the final decision making.

As schools receive information about enrollment of students with disabilities in Summer Rising, designated teachers should utilize Family Outreach time, Instructional Coordination, and/or professional periods to review the IEP/504 Plan, contact the family, and complete and submit the Summer Rising Accommodation Plan (if needed).

In order to support teachers in making determinations regarding support for their students who are attending Summer Rising, principals should provide time as outlined below:

- ES teachers (K-5) will complete the Summer Rising Accommodation Plan for up to 5 students per week as part of their duties and responsibilities in lieu of administrative assignments to the extent they exist; and
- MS/JHS/HS teachers (6-12) will complete the Accommodation Plan for up to 10 students per week as part of their duties and responsibilities in lieu of administrative assignments (C6).
- All teachers will be compensated at the rate of one coverage payment for every two additional students per week as directed by the school administration.

Considerations for Determining Paraprofessional Support

Paraprofessional support may be needed for students with 1:1 paraprofessional services on their IEPs or 504 Plans, as well as for some students with Behavioral Intervention Plans (BIPs) or in special class settings who require additional supervision in order to fully participate in the Summer Rising programming. These determinations are individualized based on the student's needs and should take into consideration the support, supervision, and activities throughout all aspects of the Summer Rising day, including DOE-led and CBO-led activities, and the times from 8am – 3pm, and 3pm – 6pm. While students may have paraprofessional services in their 10-month IEP, the determination for summer may be different given the unique nature of the Summer Rising program, e.g., small group sizes, enrichment activities, and other supplemental staff at each site.

It is possible that a student may require paraprofessional support during some parts of the day and not others due to the nature of the supervision and/or activities. A student may also not need 1:1 paraprofessional support for some or all of the time based on the activities, group size, and overall staffing in the Summer Rising program; as appropriate, paraprofessionals may support more than one student. When more information is needed about the student's selected Summer Rising program, the home school administrator should reach out to the principal-in-charge of the Summer Rising program to learn more about program supervision, supports, and activities.

Students who receive a paraprofessional for health services during the school year (as documented on their most recent IEP or 504 Plan, and MAF/DMAF if applicable) must be assigned paraprofessional services at Summer Rising for any portions of the day where necessary.

Staffing a Paraprofessional

When paraprofessional support is warranted, the Summer Rising site will hire a paraprofessional for the time frame in which the support is needed (e.g., for the 8am – 3pm portion, the 3pm – 6pm portion for students in grade K-5, or both). For a paraprofessional needed for the 8am – 3pm portion of the day, there will be a central posting. For a paraprofessional needed for the 3pm – 6pm portion of the day, schools should make a local posting based on actual need and hours/day needed [see template for local posting](#). If additional paraprofessional staffing support is needed at a Summer Rising site, the school can staff additional paraprofessionals through their allocation and, if necessary, request additional funding.

Every Summer Rising site has a Site Council, which comprises the CBO director, the principal in charge, principals of affiliated schools (or a designee), site supervisors, and other representatives. Members of the Site Council will share program information with teachers at their schools to help inform decisions about paraprofessional services. An administrator in the Summer Rising program will ensure that the IEP or 504 Plan of a student to whom the paraprofessional is assigned is reviewed with the paraprofessional and that their responsibilities are explained. This should happen before the student's first day of summer learning and each time a new paraprofessional is assigned. In addition, the Summer Rising site nurse or nursing supervisor will provide student-specific health services training.

Paraprofessionals who are working in Summer Rising programs to support students with IEPs or 504 Plans may provide overall supports to all enrolled children to fully participate in the summer programming, including CBO-led activities, provided that students with disabilities or 504 needs receive the appropriate level of support. During CBO-led activities, paraprofessionals will be supervised by CBO staff.

After the beginning of Summer Rising, if a program believes that a student requires paraprofessional support or other accommodation(s), the teacher(s) will consult with the principal-in-charge of the Summer Rising. If the student has an IEP and the program does not have access to that student in SESIS, the Summer Rising principal-in-charge will contact the Borough/Citywide Office (BCO) Administrator of Special Education (ASE), who will make the student's IEP available to the Summer Rising site. The Summer Rising site will follow the process set out above to determine whether the student requires the support of a paraprofessional or other accommodations; complete the 2021 Summer Rising Accommodation Plan; and hire, onboard, and supervise the paraprofessional.

We are developing an escalation protocol to support Principals in Charge/AP Site Supervisors, paraprofessionals, and CBO staff. This protocol will be posted on the InfoHub and will be announced in an upcoming PDigest.

For questions regarding students with IEPs and access to Summer Rising programs, contact your [Administrator of Special Education \(ASE\)](#). For questions regarding students with 504 Plans and access to Summer Rising programs, contact the student's home school 504 Coordinator or your BCO [Health Director](#). The Health Director must be consulted regarding Central funding authorization.