

October 03, 2023

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

Library Summer Tutoring Pilot Program

Summer vacation signals freedom for students. As soon as the last school bell rings, students grab their backpacks and race out the door, leaving all thoughts of school behind. However, summer learning is essential for students to retain skills and knowledge acquired throughout the school year. Many studies have found that significant learning loss occurs during the summer months. According to the 2022 California Reading Report Card, “58% of California's third graders are below grade level in reading”. What's worse, among low-income students of color, over 75% read below grade level. Low early reading achievement is highly correlated with low high-school grades, failure to graduate, and likelihood of going to prison.” In addition, according to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, research shows that students who pass Algebra 1 by 9th grade are twice as likely to graduate high school and more likely to enroll and graduate with a bachelor’s degree and go on to well-paid careers.

Kids who fall behind and who are more likely to drop out of school are also more likely to experience a lower quality of life. When the initial framework of academic success is established in grades 1 through 6, it can become the foundation for lifelong learning.

Libraries are community centers that support literacy and education and connect people to information and resources in various formats. In addition to access to books, music and movies,

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LA County Library (Library) provides homework centers, digital learning tools and online tutoring programs.

Data from LA County's Racial Equity explorer identified 36 of the highest need communities served by Library that have low reading and math scores and would benefit from additional academic support. Library has an opportunity to help improve this low performance through a tutoring program during the summer months, with initial implementation at 10 libraries in 2024; with a potential expansion to 36 libraries by 2026.

Further supporting this data, recent Library-hosted visioning sessions revealed that 22% of community members need additional support with academics, especially in reading and math. Summer tutoring allows students to not only maintain and improve skill levels, but also gives them an opportunity to fill in any learning gaps and prepare them for the upcoming school year. Summertime is the perfect opportunity to engage credentialed teachers in developing a Library summer tutoring program that will foster academic enrichment and give students confidence, motivation, and excitement to continue learning and growing. Often teachers are seeking summer employment and the Library tutoring program will provide such an opportunity. Tutors recruited from Student Professional Workers will also gain experience in working with youth to help prepare them for a career in education and fill a critical need for teachers in our schools. Library will also reach out to other County departments to explore opportunities for partnership that will strengthen the Library tutoring program.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the County Librarian to establish a one-year pilot summer tutoring program, with a planned launch in 2024, including:
 - a. Establishing partnerships with community partners, school districts and other County Departments and stakeholders to support the program;
 - b. Coordinating with the Chief Executive Office to identify funding;
 - c. Report back to the Board by January 1, 2025 on the success and impact of the pilot, as well as feasibility of expansion; and
2. Delegate authority to the County Librarian, or her designee, to execute partnerships, agreements or amendments associated with the implementation and, if approved, expansion of the summer tutoring program, subject to County Counsel's approval as to form, and notification to the Chief Executive Office.

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