



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

**TO:** Cultural Education Committee

**FROM:** Mark Schaming 

**SUBJECT:** *Summer Reading at New York Libraries* Program

**DATE:** May 23, 2019

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

## SUMMARY

### Issue for Discussion

Every year the State Library launches the annual statewide *Summer Reading at New York Libraries* program in partnership with public library systems and local public libraries across the state. *Summer Reading at New York Libraries* is one of the most popular and heavily used programs of the State Library. Last year, 2.4 million children and teens participated in summer reading programs at local public libraries in New York. State Library staff will provide an update on plans for the 2019 program.

### Reason for Consideration

For information.

### Background Information

Studies show that library summer reading programs raise student learning levels and help prevent learning losses during the summer months. *Summer Reading at New York Libraries* provides exciting summer reading, learning and literacy opportunities for young people of all ages and their family members at New York's 1,100 public libraries and branches across the State.

This successful and highly visible program brings children and families into local public libraries for fun and creative reading and literacy activities during the summer months. Library programs are offered free of charge to children, teens, and families statewide. In 2018, over 2.4 million of New York's children and teens participated in the

program through their local public library. During the past decade, program participation has almost doubled. The 2021 goal is to reach 2.5 million participants.

The State Library partners with the 23 public library systems and 40 school library systems on promotion and program implementation. The State Library offers high-quality educational materials, access to online registration software, support through the [www.summerreadingnys.org](http://www.summerreadingnys.org) website and much more. Local libraries of all sizes tailor the statewide program to the needs of their local patrons and community. The State Education Department and myON by Renaissance are partnering again this year to bring free access to thousands of enhanced digital books to children and teens and their families across the state. Schools are strongly encouraged to promote summer reading resources and collaborate with their local public library to keep students engaged in reading, learning and using the public library during the summer months. Partner organizations like the New York State Senate and Assembly, Hunger Solutions NY, and the New York State Reading Association are tremendously important to the success of the program in communities throughout the state, by helping to spread the word and encouraging participation by children and families.