



TO: Cultural Education Committee
FROM: Jeffrey Cannell
SUBJECT: Report on Summer Reading 2013 Program
DATE: February 3, 2014

AUTHORIZATION(S):

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SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Each year, the State Library launches the annual statewide *Summer Reading at New York Libraries* program. This year there were launches at eleven sites across the state. Summer Reading is one of the most popular and the second most heavily used program of the State Library. A continuing effort is being made to connect the rewards of *Summer Reading at New York Libraries* to the Common Core for teachers, students and parents.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For information.

Proposed Handling

The Cultural Education Committee will learn about the results of the *Summer Reading in New York Libraries* 2013.

Background Information

The *Summer Reading at New York Libraries* provides exciting summer reading and literacy opportunities for children and teens and family members at New York's 1,100 public libraries and branches across the state. It also provides a means to support the instructional shifts that are part of the implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards by including an array of fiction and non-fiction materials and opportunities to have deeper discussions of the written materials.

This successful and highly visible program brings children and families into local public libraries for reading and literacy activities during the summer months. Library programs are offered free of charge to children, teens, and families statewide. The goal of reaching 1.5 million children by 2010 was reached two years early when, in 2008, over 1.5 million of New York's children and teens participated in the program. This year, a new "record" was set with 1.76 million children participating.

The State library partners with the 23 public library systems on program implementation, offering high-quality educational materials, support through the www.summerreadingnys.org website, small modest Family Literacy grants to library systems for local programming, and more. Local libraries, in partnership with schools and community organizations, tailor the statewide program to local needs. Partnerships include New York Council for the Humanities, Cornell Cooperative Extension's 4-H Youth Development, NYS Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs, Inc., Hunger Solutions New York, the NYS Assembly and Senate, New York State's Public Broadcasting stations and all New York schools. The New York State Library also participates in the national Collaborative Summer Library Program.