



# WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

*Together for Excellence ★ ¡Juntos por la Excelencia!*

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## Board of Education

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**TO:** Board of Education  
**FROM:** Jenny Brunke, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning  
**DATE:** 4/17/2026  
**RE:** Summer School 2026

**This memo is:**

- Information only  
 Information with a recommendation and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed:

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- in previous Board packet(s) dated.  
 or attached to this memo

### Basic Information:

This year, Summer School and ESY will once again be rising grades for all incoming Kindergarten through 8th-grade students. Summer School and ESY will be held at two separate locations. Incoming Kindergarten through 4th grade will be held at Gary Elementary School. Incoming 5th- 8th grade will be held at Lemman Middle School. Transportation for summer school will be provided for students who qualify.

Summer School and ESY will run from June 16th to July 16th, Monday-Thursday. Student hours are from 8:30-12:00. Breakfast and lunch will be provided to all students.

The theme for Summer School this year is Saving Our Planet, and we will have several conservation-related activities and events for students to engage in. This is in addition to the instruction in the areas of English literacy, Spanish literacy, math, and STEM. Incoming Kindergarten students will also practice Kindergarten readiness skills such as opening their lunch items, zipping their coats, transitioning between locations in the building, etc. Similar to years past, there will be an A&E (acceleration and enrichment) strand for students identified as A&E in grades 3-8. Once again, Lemman will host a Newcomer strand for students in grades 6-8. These classes will focus on navigating our school system and English language acquisition with a focus on translanguaging and making cross-linguistic connections. New this year will be our Advanced Spanish course at Lemman Middle School.

Communication between staff and families will be frequent with weekly Summer School Newsletters, updates, and pictures. Summer progress reports will be sent home for incoming Kindergarten students at the end of the summer to communicate the growth students have made.

Currently, we have 640 students enrolled in Summer School in grades K-8. We have approximately 50 staff members who will teach/support Summer programming, including administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, Instructional Technology Coaches, nurses, and clerical staff. Students participating in

the Teachers of Tomorrow program from Lemman Middle School and West Chicago Community High School will also be in our classrooms, supporting our students.

**Additional Programs:**

Camp Ole will be held at Gary Elementary School from July 13th to July 17th. Camp Ole will also follow the theme of Saving Our Planet and will take a field trip to the Morton Arboretum on the final date.

**Background/Historical Context:**

Summer School 2025 was held at Currier Elementary School for grades K-4 and Lemman Middle School for grades 5-8. ESY for grades PreK-5 was housed at Currier Elementary, and ESY 6-8 was also housed at Lemman Middle School.

Summer School 2024 was held at Lemman Middle School for grades K-8. ESY was also housed at Lemman for grades K-8. PreK ESY was held at SASSED due to construction at Pioneer Preschool.

Summer School 2023 was held at ELC and Lemman Middle School. ELC housed the PreK, Kinder, and 1st-grade ESY students. Lemman held all students in grades K-8, as well as 1st-8th-grade ESY students. There were a total of 412 students enrolled in summer school and 45 students enrolled in ESY in 2023.

Summer School 2022 was held at three sites. We had students in Kindergarten-3rd grade at Turner School, all 4th-8th graders were at West Chicago Community High School, and students needing ESY for pre-school-2nd grade were at Trinity. There were a total of 494 students enrolled in summer school and 63 students enrolled in ESY in 2022.

During the summer of 2020, we held summer school virtually in response to the pandemic shutdown. Students logged on every morning for a half-day and met with their class virtually. Individual conferences were also set up with the teacher and family. GATE classes were provided to students eligible in grades 3-8.

Previous to the pandemic, summer school was held at Lemman and Winfield, working closely with the DREAM program in grades K-5. Students in grades 6-8 participated in the Bridge Program, targeting students who were failing at least two core classes. There has been consistent student enrollment of 314 students in 2018 and 2019.

**Previous decisions, actions, or parameters that relate to this topic or issue:**

Staff and parents are excited to have Summer School open to so many students. Anyone who wants to attend Summer School will be able to attend.

**Recommendations:**

N/A