



Summer Boost: Reading & Mathematics Program

Frequently Asked Questions

[2026 Application Now Open!](#)

1. If selected, will our district receive resources to support reading and mathematics activities at each of our sites?

Yes, you will receive:

- Books* to give away
- Digital math games
- Digital access to parent information to promote reading
- Bracelets and Book Bags to give away
- User-friendly training (at an orientation meeting prior to summer) on how to use the materials to engage students and families at meal sites
- Ideas to share with parents or caregivers to promote literacy and numeracy in everyday life
- An opportunity for a guest reader

*Quantities are limited, therefore, larger feeding sites may have to distribute on a first come first serve basis or may choose to organize give-aways by last name (for instance, A-K day and L-Z day) in order to ensure everyone has an opportunity to receive something.

2. When do we give out the free books and other resources such as bookmarks, bracelets and backpacks?

Each site may determine a schedule or system for distributing the books and bling as long as the requirements in #3 below are met. The idea is to encourage children to engage in reading and mathematics every day.

3. What ages/grade levels does the program target?

K-5, but books for pre-K and grades 6-12 are also available.

4. What are the program requirements if we are selected to participate?

- Implement Summer Boost activities at summer meal sites at least 60% of operation days each week. This equates to 3 days per week for programs running 4-5 days per week, 2 days per week for programs running 2-3 days per week and every day for programs running only 1 day per week.
- Assign a Summer Boost Coordinator(s)* to:

- Attend our virtual spring training session to learn how to use summer feeding sites as a platform for encouraging parents to engage in reading and mathematical thinking with their children every day.
- Lead or organize someone to lead reading and/or math activities for children and parents or caregivers at summer feeding sites
- Collaborate with the KDE as needed to ensure children in your community experience the benefits of the Summer Boost program (e.g., schedule a guest reader, have a plan for distribution of materials, publicize events/offering)
- Provide feedback on the Summer Boost Program via survey completion

**A Summer Boost Coordinator may be any dependable adult who is available to fulfill the guidelines listed above (i.e. volunteer, teacher, parent, community member, childcare facility worker). The district may choose to assign co-coordinators. The Summer Boost Coordinator(s) will serve as the point(s) of contact for the Summer Boost Program.*

- Oversee collaboration between the Summer Boost Coordinator(s) and the district's Director of Food Services (or other person responsible for meal distribution) to aid in the success of the Summer Boost Program.

5. If my district is selected, will KDE provide a Summer Boost Coordinator to lead the activities or who is allowed to lead the activities at meal sites?

The KDE will not provide a coordinator. Each district will be responsible for choosing a Summer Boost Coordinator who will communicate with the folks serving meals in the district and the KDE. The role is pretty flexible and will likely look different in different districts. As long as the person is willing to be responsible for making sure the reading and math activities are being promoted at the sites and agrees to the guidelines listed in #3 above, she or he can be the coordinator.

6. What if my district already has a summer reading and math program in place - can we still apply?

Yes.

7. Can non-school sponsors apply or does my organization have to be a public school food service program?

Since the Summer Boost Program is run by the Kentucky Department of Education, first consideration will be given to school districts that participate in the Summer Food Service Program. Non-school sponsors may apply and will be considered as space allows.

8. Who do I contact if I have more questions?

Danielle Ward at danielle.ward@education.ky.gov.

9. When are applications due?

[Applications](#) must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m., ET on March 27, 2026.