



Learning Loss

Frequently Asked Questions

for Charter Schools

1. How is a charter school's economically disadvantaged (ED) Target Participation Rate calculated?

- a. What data points (and from what time period) can be used to make this calculation?
- b. Does this rate reflect the percentage of ED students enrolled at the school, or the percentage of ED students who actually attend the camps? If the latter, could an allocation (either for a charter school or an LEA) be reduced due to low attendance at the camp?

LEA allocations for each program were determined by using average daily membership (ADM) and ED data from the last full school year, 2019-20. How a charter school's ED target participation rate is determined, and the data points to determine this rate, would be an LEA decision. Charters are encouraged to work with their authorizing LEA to determine the appropriate target.

2. If a charter school does not meet or exceed its LEA's ED Target Participation Rate for the applicable camp, how is the funding reduced? What is the methodology for calculating any reductions?

The expectation of the department is that in instances where a charter school does not meet its ED target participation rate, its allocation would be reduced proportionately – consistent with the way in which an LEA's allocation would be reduced. For example, if a school's allocation for a summer camp is \$50,000 and it has a target ED participation rate of 20%, then \$10,000 of the total award is projected to be TANF-supported. If the school only achieves 15% ED participation, then the charter school meets 75% of its target (e.g., $15/25=75\%$) and is therefore only eligible to claim 75% of the TANF funds, or \$7,500 (a reduction of \$2,500).

3. If a charter school partners with its LEA to provide its camps, how is the charter school's allocation reduced? Is that determined by a negotiation between the LEA and charter school?

In instances where a charter school partners with its authorizing LEA for camps, disbursement of the allocation would be determined by the LEA and charter school leadership.

4. If a charter school elects to host its own camps, does the LEA have any responsibility for monitoring or oversight of the camps? If not, does the department exercise oversight?



Yes. If a charter school is conducting its own camps, as permitted by the Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act, the authorizing LEA would be responsible for the oversight of the camps. The authorizing LEA is responsible for the charter schools it authorizes, including compliance with state and federal requirements.

5. Can a charter school forego the proportionate share allocated to its LEA for summer learning programs and run its own camps that do not follow state requirements (presumably using ESSER 2.0 funds)? In other words, if the charter school declines state funds, can it do whatever it wants with respect to summer programming?

No. If a charter school conducts after-school learning minicamps, learning loss bridge camps, or summer learning camps, the charter school must do so in compliance with this act.

6. Are there any capacity limits for summer camps (e.g., X # of seats per grade)? If not, can a charter school establish its own capacity limits?

The Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act requires that all priority students be provided the opportunity to enroll in summer programming. If a charter school is hosting its own summer programs, then this requirement must be met, and the same holds true for LEA-hosted camps.

7. Can the requirement in the law that one (1) hour of physical activity be provided to students each day during Learning Loss Bridge Camps and Summer Learning Camps be broken into 2-3 breaks throughout the day?

Yes, this is an acceptable option for scheduling the one hour of physical activity.

8. Can the requirement in the law that one (1) hour of response to instruction and intervention (RTI2) services per day be included in the Learning Loss Bridge Camps and the Summer Learning Camps, be broken into times throughout the day? For example, could it be conducted during lunch or breakfast?

Yes, this is an acceptable option for scheduling the required one hour of intervention.

9. Can the After-School Learning Mini-Camps (also referred to as STREAM Camps) be offered to students in grades 6-8 in addition to students in grades 1-5? Similarly, can we combine grades for the STREAM Camps (e.g., could we have a STREAM Camp classroom for grades 1-3?)

Yes, LEAs may elect to expand STREAM camps for additional grades, and ESSER funds could be used for this expanded programming.



10. Can all summer programming (Summer Learning Camps, Learning Loss Bridge Camps and After-Mini Learning Mini-Camps) last for six weeks for a K-8 school? It seems complex to offer summer programming of multiple lengths, particularly for families with multiple children.

Yes, offering additional or extended summer programming is allowable, and ESSER funds could be used for this purpose.

11. Is there a required curriculum for the summer programming (Summer Learning Camps, Learning Loss Bridge Camps and After-Mini Learning Mini-Camps)? Can a charter school use its own "in house" curriculum for ELA and Math?

Charter schools may have terms in their existing charter agreement with their authorizer that would be relevant to curriculum selection; however, they may also use state-provided/approved materials.

12. If school is closed for a holiday (e.g., Memorial Day or July 4th), does that week still count towards the 5 days/week requirement?

Yes.

13. Who is the contact for additional information on TN ALL Corps?

The department will share points of contact with TN ALL Corps in the coming weeks.

14. Are charter schools required to provide transportation for students to attend the summer camps that it hosts?

Unless a student has special transportation included as a related service in their IEP, LEAs and charter schools are not legally required to provide transportation for summer programming. However, LEAs and charter schools are encouraged to provide transportation and may use ESSER and other additional funding to do so.

15. Can a charter school condition its election to host summer programming on the Commissioner's approval of its waiver request? If a waiver request is denied, can the charter school opt-out of hosting the summer camp?

The Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act requires every LEA offer summer programming (Summer Learning Camps, Learning Loss Bridge Camps and After-Mini Learning Mini-Camps) – with an opportunity for every priority student to attend. To meet the requirements, LEAs must have a firm commitment from each of its charter schools in order to plan accordingly. Currently, waivers are being determined within 2-3 days; therefore, there should not be a delay in a charter school's decision. However, any extension to this notification would occur between the authorizing LEA and charter school.



16. The waiver application indicates that approved waivers will not impact an LEA's fiscal allocation. Does the same hold true for charter schools? So, if the Commissioner approves a charter school's request to waive 2 weeks of summer learning camp, does the charter school receive the same proportionate share as it would receive for providing all 6 weeks?

Consistent with LEA waivers, approved waivers will not impact a charter school's allocation should they host summer programming independently.

17. My charter school operates on an extended school year calendar. Could these additional instructional days, in part or in whole, satisfy the summer programming requirements in the Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act?

LEAs or charter schools that have nontraditional calendars or extended school years (beyond 180 days) should consult the department to determine if additional instructional days in the regular school year could satisfy the summer programming requirements in the laws, or if a waiver would be required.

18. If a charter school is not hosting its own summer programming (Summer Learning Camps, Learning Loss Bridge Camps and After-Mini Learning Mini-Camps), does everything default to the LEA? For example:

- a. **Determining Priority Students** – for eligibility, can the LEA set the criteria, or are charter school students “sent” that need to participate in the summer programming?
- b. **Transportation** – does the LEA have to provide charter students with transportation?

If a charter school elects to participate in LEA-provided summer programming, the LEA would be responsible for determining which students are deemed priority or eligible for summer programming. With the exception of students who have special transportation included in their IEP as a related service, there is no requirement for an LEA to provide transportation for summer programming.

19. If a charter school has elected to host its own summer programming (Summer Learning Camps, Learning Loss Bridge Camps and After-Mini Learning Mini-Camps), what happens if the charter school is unable to provide the number of teachers required based on the number of students enrolled in the summer programming? Is there a cap to their program based on the number of teachers?

There is no cap; however, there is a 1:13 student-teacher ratio that is a minimum for summer programming.