Addendum

Template for Task Force Final Reports

Date: 6 January 2017

To: ALSC Board of Directors

From: ALSC Summer Reading and Learning Task Force

Subject: Recommendations for Discussion

**Task Force Charge:** To explore and make recommendations to the Board regarding ways in which ALSC can expand and strengthen its support of members in their summer reading and learning work.

**Task Force Recommendations:**

Based on input from ALSC members, the findings of the Task Force members, and input from the ALSC Board we recommend the following:

- **Recommendation #1** (Previous Recommendation #2): Reach out to other organizations (i.e. ULC, NSLA, YALSA, AASL, The Center for Childhood Creativity – but not exclusively) involved in summer learning and libraries to work together on providing research around successful outcomes in public libraries.

  The Task Force recommends continuing discussions with other organizations involved in summer learning over the next several years to build relationships around summer and Out-of-School Time (OST) learning to work on providing best practices and research in libraries. It is recommended that funding be allocated for travel (as needed) to facilitate conversations and for dissemination of best practices. It is important for libraries in general and ALSC in particular, to be part of summer learning conversations wherever they are taking place. Children’s Librarians have been offering summer reading and learning programs for over 100 years and have a wealth of expertise to offer. This recommendation also links to Recommendations #2 and #4.

- **Recommendation #2** (Previous Recommendation #5): Create opportunities throughout ALSC’s portfolio of existing professional development for members to share and learn best practices, including webinars, conference presentations, and a preconference later in the timeline.

  The Task Force recommends creating at least one virtual professional development for members (i.e. a webinar) in FY 18 and an in person professional development (i.e. a pre-conference) in FY 19 to support members development around best practices and the latest research on summer and OST learning in public libraries. There could also be an opportunity to collaborate with PLA, NSLA or others to present at their conferences, as well. This recommendation also links to Recommendation #1 and #4.
• **Recommendation #3** (Previous Recommendation #7): Work with ALA to add summer learning messaging and activities into National Library Legislative Day.
   The Task Force recommends creating additional talking points and a handout (i.e. an infographic) around summer learning messaging for those who participate in NLLD. This was not fully capitalized in the past year and could really be helpful in emphasizing IMLS and LSTA funding. Many politicians may already be familiar with summer library activities positively affecting their communities and this will help inform and bolster that point of view.

• **Recommendation #4** (Previous Recommendation #3): Support one or more summer learning programs in ALSC member libraries to assess efficacy and outcomes for both the library and the participating children and families, focusing on time read vs. titles read and length of overall engagement with participants. Secondarily, use the learnings from these pilots over the long term to create an organized service model for summer learning that libraries can use in their summer and year round learning programs (like Every Child Ready to Read does for early literacy programming).
   The eternal question in libraries around summer learning is, “What is most effective for children?” Libraries struggle with time read vs. number of books read. What is the minimum dosage to support outcomes? What outcomes? In moving toward a summer learning model what does that mean for best practices and outcomes? If there can be more definitive research on what works and what is effective than librarians would have a framework for moving forward summer and OST programming. The Task Force recommends investigating piloting summer reading models and then creating a framework or toolkit like Every Child Ready to Read to support libraries implementing best practices. This recommendation is a longer term goal and is likely to need external funding and an evaluator/consultant. This recommendation also links to Recommendations #1 and #2.

**Recommendation #5** (Previous Recommendation #9): Appoint a new task force with the following charge:

**New Charge for Task Force:** To work with ALSC Leadership, Staff, and Committees to refine and implement the recommendations in this report and to assign responsibilities to existing ALSC Committees.