



**TO:** Cultural Education Committee

**FROM:** Jeffrey Cannell

**SUBJECT:** Summer Reading

**DATE:** April 11, 2013

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

  
**SUMMARY**

### **Issue for Discussion**

Each year the State Library launches the annual statewide Summer Reading at New York Libraries program. This year there will be "virtual" launches which will be primarily on-line announcements based at several sites across the state. In addition, members of the Board of Regents will be invited to participate in launches at library locations in their districts, to tell stories to children and to be part of the promotional effort to encourage summertime reading for people of all ages. Summer Reading is one of the most popular and the second most heavily used program of the State Library. A special effort is being made to connect the rewards of Summer Reading at New York's Libraries to the Common Core for teachers, students and parents.

### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

For information and scheduling action.

### **Proposed Handling**

The Cultural Education Committee will learn about the Summer Reading in New York Libraries 2013 launch plans and discuss the locations for various Regents' participatory activities and events, including story times, speeches, and virtual presentations.

### **Background Information**

The Summer Reading at New York Libraries provides exciting summer reading and literacy opportunities for 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. Last year over 1.7 million children participated.

The State Library partners with the 23 public library systems on program implementation, offering high-quality educational materials, support through the [www.summerreadingnys.org](http://www.summerreadingnys.org) website, small mini-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.

### **Recommendation**

Staff seeks Regents participation in Summer Reading at New York Libraries launch events around the state.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

Planning of launch events has begun. Connections with local libraries and systems will be coordinated with Board of Regents members.