

1 **1.79.** (SDE: Summer Reading Camps) For the current fiscal year, funds appropriated for summer  
2 reading camps must be allocated as follows: (1) up to 20% to the Department of Education to provide  
3 bus transportation for students attending the camps; (2) \$700,000 to support community partnerships  
4 whereby community organizations would collaborate with local school districts to provide after school  
5 programs or summer reading camps that utilize volunteers, mentors or tutors to provide instructional  
6 support to struggling readers in elementary schools that have a poverty index of 50 percent or  
7 greater. The Education Oversight Committee will document and evaluate the partnerships and the  
8 impact of the partnerships on student academic success and make recommendations on the  
9 characteristics of effective partnerships and on methods of duplicating effective partnerships  
10 throughout the state; and (3) the remainder on a per pupil allocation to each school district based on  
11 the number of students who scored Not Met 1 on the third grade reading and research assessment of  
12 the prior year's Palmetto Assessment of State Standards administration. Summer reading camps must  
13 be at least six weeks in duration with a minimum of four days of instruction per week and four hours of  
14 instruction per day, or the equivalent minimum hours of instruction in the summer. School  
15 transportation shall be provided. The camps must be taught by compensated teachers who have at  
16 least an add-on literacy endorsement or who have documented and demonstrated substantial success  
17 in helping students comprehend grade- level texts. The Department of Education shall assist districts  
18 that cannot find qualified teachers to work in the summer camps. Districts may also choose to contract  
19 for the services of qualified instructors or collaborate with one or more districts to provide a summer  
20 reading camp. Schools and school districts are encouraged to partner with county or school libraries,  
21 institutions of higher learning, community organizations, faith-based institutions, businesses, pediatric  
22 and family practice medical personnel, and other groups to provide volunteers, mentors, tutors, space,  
23 or other support to assist with the provision of the summer reading camps. In the current school year,  
24 any student in third grade who substantially fails to demonstrate third-grade reading proficiency by the  
25 end of the school year must be offered the opportunity to attend a summer reading camp at no cost to  
26 the parent or guardian. The purpose of the reading camp is to provide students who are significantly  
27 below third-grade reading proficiency with the opportunity to receive quality, intensive instructional  
28 services and support. A district may also include in the summer reading camps students who are not  
29 exhibiting reading proficiency at any grade and may charge fees for these students to attend the  
30 summer reading camps based on a sliding scale pursuant to Section 59-19-90, except where a child is  
31 found to be reading below grade level in the first, second or third grade. A parent or guardian of a  
32 student who does not substantially demonstrate proficiency in comprehending texts appropriate for his  
33 grade level must make the final decision regarding the student's participation in the summer reading  
34 camp.

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