

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
ANGELA D. ALSOBROOKS**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**COUNTY EXECUTIVE ALSOBROOKS OUTLINES SUMMER ENRICHMENT  
PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS & YOUNG PEOPLE**

*County Executive Also Issues Statement Regarding Distance Learning in the Fall for  
PGCPS Students*

**LARGO, MD** – Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced today several initiatives the County is supporting to ensure students and young people stay engaged over the summer. The County Executive also released the following statement on the distance learning decision by Prince George's County Public Schools:

"I know that this was a difficult, but thoughtful and collaborative process that led Dr. Goldson to make the determination that our Prince George's County Public School students would begin the 2020-2021 school year in a distance learning posture. I am very concerned about the achievement gap, which has the opportunity to widen when our students are not in the classroom. I am also acutely aware that not every child has a parent, guardian or caregiver at home who has the resources and time to assist their student as they distance learn.

While we have those concerns, we are also concerned for the safety and well-being of our students, their parents and grandparents, our teachers, staff and administrators. We know that, while as a community we have done a tremendous job of slowing the spread of this virus and flattening the curve, COVID-19 is still very much with us. It is absolutely critical that we take the necessary steps to preserve life, and while I very much want for our students to have the opportunity to learn in the classroom this fall, the repercussions of placing our students, families and teachers at risk could have far reaching consequences."

Through support from the County Executive, several summer enrichment programs are providing young people opportunities to stay engaged over the summer. The County Executive allocated funding to support the PGCPS/Higher Achievement Virtual Summer Program for rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade

students at the following schools: Martin Luther King Middle, Benjamin Stoddert Middle, Isaac Gourdine Middle, and Walker Mill Middle.

This four-week academic enrichment program started on July 13. Students will participate in two virtual sessions per week – one 75-minute session in math, one 75-minute session in English language arts – with live instruction from a trained Higher Achievement staff member. Participating students receive an interactive experience that includes: online games, academic skill building, academic content linked to current events such as the Black Lives Matter movement, individualized small group instruction, and an opportunity to engage with peers from their school in a supportive environment.

In addition, the County Executive partnered with the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) to provide free online tutoring in the areas of language arts, math, ACT/SAT prep, as well as other resources to assist students over the summer break and as schools resume distance learning in the fall. The resources can be located on the [PGCMLS website here](#), under the Activities and Educational Resources tab.

Finally, the County’s 2020 Youth@Work/Summer Youth Enrichment Program (SYEP), initially cancelled due to the pandemic, is now providing a number of paid virtual learning opportunities and limited in-person employment opportunities for young people ages 14-22. Applicants who applied earlier this year were given potential offers in a variety of programs, including the following:

- National Energy Education Development (NEED): a virtual opportunity through a collaborative educational initiative designed to empower students to explore opportunities in STEM fields. (Program started July 6)
- Office and Professional Skills Training: a virtual instructional certification course for young people ages 18-22 to become customer service certified. (Program started July 6)
- Food Distribution: an in-person opportunity to assist with packing, staging and distributing food boxes to residents in need, in collaboration with the Capital Area Food Bank. (Group 1 started July 6, Group 2 starts July 27)
- Health Communities Program: a virtual opportunity that offers youth a variety of selections related to achieving a healthy lifestyle, such as Zumba and culinary/nutritional programming. (Program started July 13)
- Prince George’s County Leadership Academy: a virtual leadership academy that offers training/learning in areas such as communications (TV/radio/social media), trades (cosmetology, auto mechanic), and entrepreneurship. (Program starts July 20)

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