

## Summer School Sessions Off to Smooth Start

Even though the 2014-15 instructional year is over for most of our schools, there is still a great deal of activity going on in the District. There are 74,000 students attending summer school classes across 254 school sites. Employees are also busy making sure everything is in place for hundreds of thousands of students to start the new school year on August 18.

I am pleased to report that the first few days of summer school sessions have gone fairly smoothly. While schools experienced some challenges (e.g., some employees' having limited access and a glitch with a few secondary and special education courses), problems were addressed fairly quickly, and students were appropriately in classes and learning on Day One. This is an incredibly different picture from where we were at the beginning of summer last year.

As the MiSiS system is still relatively new—and given the history of problems in the past twelve months—the team has been working in close partnership with the Beyond the Bell Branch and the Division of Special Education, keeping a sharp eye on processes related to summer school. Team members have been in regular contact with administrators around the District through the weekend and during the first few days to ensure readiness to begin summer school. Fifty technical staff members were also sent to visit schools in person, helping to report and resolve any technical problems swiftly, minimizing disruption to instruction.

We will continue to monitor summer school sessions and check in periodically with administrators to make sure processes are running smoothly. As always, any schools experiencing any technical difficulties should [contact the IT HelpDesk](#) immediately in order to minimize any interference with teaching and learning.

I'd like to extend my gratitude once again to the MiSiS team, to our administrative offices—and most importantly—to our schools. Without the hard work and dedication they have all shown, we would not be where we are today.

I look forward to seeing additional progress as we move forward. I will issue brief reports like this one whenever there is news to share.

Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines