

## What Parents Should Know...

### Extended School Year

*What is ESY? Extended School Year (ESY) typically relates to the summer months, but can include other breaks, such as during spring or winter. ESY is not intended to introduce new goals, and instead relates to continued efforts on the same annual goals. The IEP document includes Extended School Year, and it must be considered each year for all students with disabilities.*



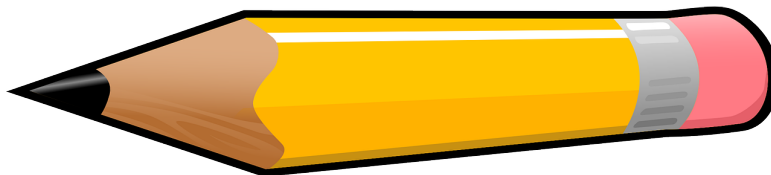
**ESY can be based on additional factors besides those listed:**

- Nature and Severity of Impairment
- Student's Rate of Progress
- Parent's Ability to Provide Educational Structure at Home
- Student's Ability to Interact with Non-Disabled Students
- Curriculum That Requires Continued Attention
- Availability of Alternative Resources
- Break Would Intensify "Interfering Behavior," such as Aggression or Self-Injury
- Vocational Needs

# Extended School Year (ESY)

*Extended School Year (ESY) is a special education or related service provided to students with an IEP (individualized education plan) when school is not in session, such as summer or other breaks. ESY is designed to:*

- Maintain a student's skills if they are likely to experience significant regression in the absence of services and an excessive amount of time to re-learn the skills once back in school
- Capitalize on a student's emerging skills
- Address critical life skills addressed in a student's IEP



## How does a student qualify for ESY services?

The IEP, including parents, determine if ESY is needed. There is no one tool used to qualify a student for ESY. Rather, teams discuss evidence that a student demonstrated regression in skills during a previous break in instruction and then struggled to regain or recoup those skills. The IEP team may also consider ESY services to support “emerging skills” for a student on the brink of learning, acquiring or at a critical stage of developing a new skill. Finally, the IEP team may determine ESY services are needed to support “critical life skills”: included on the student's IEP goals.

## Is there a cost to the family?

No. ESY is part of an individualized Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). An IEP team may decide that enrolling the student in an activity that has a cost in an appropriate way to provide ESY services; the school should cover those and related costs.

## Does the plan for ESY have to include all the IEP's goals and services?

No. the IEP team decides on the goal(s) appropriate for the student at the time.

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## If my child received services last summer, will he or she get the same thing next summer?

Not necessarily. This is determined by the IEP team, either in the annual meeting (any time of the year) or through an addendum, and is based on the student's current needs and priority goals.

## Do ESY services have to be in the Least Restrictive Environment, the same as during the school year?

No. The courts and the US Department of Education have recognized that it may be very difficult to create the same inclusive environment when most general education students are not in school.

## Does the family have to go along with the ESY program that the school recommends?

No. Students are not required to attend ESY; parents may decide not to have their student participate. If a parent does not agree with the level of ESY services discussed during the IEP team meeting and offered the student, they can request reconsideration. A new IEP team meeting will be convened to consider the request along with reasons for the denial.

Extended School Year					
Extended School Year Services: <input type="checkbox"/> needed <input type="checkbox"/> not needed <input type="checkbox"/> to be determined by (Date) <input type="text"/>					
Goal(s) #	*Type of Service	Beginning Date mm/dd/yy	Ending Date mm/dd/yy	Minutes Per Week	**Based on
* Instruction, related services (specify), other (list) ** Regression/Recoupment, Emerging Skills, or Maintenance of Critical Life Skills					

This is a sample photo of the ESY section and can be found at the very end of the IEP document. ESY may not focus on all the goals written into the IEP, but on specific goals where regression or emerging skills may occur.

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# To learn more about ESY...

Primer on the Provision of Extended School Year Services for Parents and Educators is a handy 15 point summary and has a two-page checklist. Available online at <https://doe.sd.gov/sped/documents/SE-ExtScYr.pdf> or contact SDPC to request a hard copy.



SOUTH DAKOTA  
ParentConnection

Sioux Falls  
3701 W. 49th St Ste 102  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106  
605-361-3171

Rapid City  
2310 N. Maple Ave  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
605-358-0305

Aberdeen  
1707 4th Ave SE Ste C  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
(605)626-8333

[www.sdparent.org](http://www.sdparent.org)  
1-800-640-4553



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