

Extended School Year (ESY) Services for my child

Frequently Asked Questions

What is ESY?

Some special education students need services beyond the normal school year (**summer school**). This is called **extended school year (ESY) services**. The purpose of extended school year services is to maintain the student's level, not to teach new skills or behaviors. ESY is no cost to parents.

Does my child qualify for ESY?

Not every student with a disability qualifies for ESY. Under state law, students qualify for ESY when:

- the student regresses (worsens) in skills or behavior when out of school and it takes a long time for the student to get those skills back.
- schools consider the nature and severity of the student's disability, rate of progress, and emerging skills.

Decisions about ESY are made on a case-by-case basis. There has to be evidence in the school record that students meet eligibility rules. Schools can't limit ESY to particular disabilities or severity levels. **Schools cannot deny ESY because they don't have money for it.** State law on ESY is found at WAC 392-172A-02020.

Who decides if my child gets ESY?

Your child's IEP team makes the decision about ESY. ESY is not limited to certain types of disability and must be considered for all students with disabilities receiving special education.

Are ESY services in the IEP?

Yes. If the student qualifies for ESY, it is listed on the IEP. If it is not listed on your child's IEP and you think your child qualifies, request an IEP meeting to consider ESY.

What are ESY services like?

ESY is individualized according to your student's IEP. It is not a "one size fits all" program. The school cannot limit services if it would deny your child a Free Appropriate Public Education. Similarly, ESY services need to be in the least restrictive environment. In other words, if your child is in a general education classroom during the school year, she should not get ESY in a self-contained classroom.

How can I request ESY services for my child?

ESY services can be difficult to get. Start requesting ESY at the beginning of the school year. It is always helpful to write a letter to the school requesting ESY. If your IEP team meets in the

fall, ask to talk about ESY then. If your IEP team meets at a different time in the school year, request an IEP meeting in the fall to consider ESY.

Contact the school district or look online to find its policy on ESY services. It might have additional information or deadlines. Make sure that the district policy is not stricter than the state rule (WAC 392-172A-02020).

Explain at the IEP meeting why you think your child is eligible for ESY. Use evidence about your child's disability and learning to support your request, including their evaluation, goals and objectives, and progress reports. If you think that these don't show your child's regression, ask that the teacher collect and share additional data tracking progress that could show your child's progress after school breaks.

What happens if there is a disagreement about the need for ESY services?

If the IEP team decides that your child is not eligible for ESY, ask that this is included in the Prior Written Notice issued after the IEP meeting. Parents may resolve disagreements through mediation facilitated by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Parents can also request a due process hearing, where an impartial adjudicator decides whether there is evidence to support ESY services for your child.

More information about special education rights can be found at:

http://www.governor.wa.gov/oco/publications/manual_students_with_disabilities.pdf

If you find any of the information provided to be inaccurate or out of date please contact Katrina.Davis@seattlechildrens.org

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