



Arc Guide to Extended School Year Services

What are extended school year services (ESY)?

ESY services are special education and related services that are provided to an eligible student on an Individual Education Plan (IEP) during school breaks. ESY services differ from a student's IEP in that they are designed to help a student maintain skills over a specified period of time. ESY services are not designed to help a student make progress. The specific ESY services to be provided are determined by the IEP team and provided at no cost to parents.

How does a student qualify for ESY?

A student can qualify for ESY services under the following conditions:

Regression/Recoupment - This means there will be a decline in the student's performance of a skill or their knowledge. The regression must be related to an IEP goal and must take more than the length of the break to regain the skill or knowledge. The time it takes to regain the skill or knowledge is commonly referred to as recoupment.

Self-Sufficiency - The student would not reach their expected level of self-sufficiency for IEP goals as a result of the break in services. Some of the skill areas addressed by self-sufficiency include toileting, eating, impulse control (i.e. behavior), development of stable relationships (e.g. social/communication skills), and functional academic competency.

Unique Needs - The IEP team determines that the student has unique needs that make ESY services necessary so that they can receive a free and appropriate public education.

How does the IEP team make the decision?

Data should be collected over school breaks to determine what happens to the student's skill level pre- and post-break.



Are ESY services limited to the “Summer School” provided by the district?

ESY services are not “Summer School.” Goals, amount of instructional time, setting, etc., are all determined by the IEP team on an individual basis according to the needs of the student. For example, services may be provided in a variety of settings and held for the duration of the break period, not limited to the typical four or six week “Summer School” period.

Services should not be based on who is available for the break and limited to academic areas but should include any and all service areas the team has determined are necessary for maintaining the student’s skill level. Arc Guide to Extended School Year Services

When should the team determine if my child qualifies for ESY services?

ESY determinations should be made as early in the school year as practical. If the team cannot decide on this at the IEP meeting, it should be noted on the IEP that ESY is to be determined later in the year. The team should not say “No” to ESY services without production of data and/or a discussion of all the factors by the whole team.

Does ESY only apply to summer break?

No. The same factors apply to any break in instruction.

For further information or advocacy services, contact The Arc Minnesota at 952-920-0855 or toll-free at 833.450.1494 or visit www.arcminnesota.org. (Please note: *This document is not legal advice, and should not be construed as such. Thus, no information herein should replace the sound advice of an attorney.*)

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