

# Determining an Individual Student's Need for Extended School Year — ESY

By: Shanida Mathieu



The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the federal special education law, requires school districts and charter schools to provide ESY services if a student needs these services to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE). Extended School Year (ESY) services are special education and related services provided to students with disabilities beyond the regular school year.

In some cases, interruptions in the school schedule, such as summer break, weekends, and holidays, will result in children with disabilities losing many of their basic skills and taking a long time to get those skills back once school begins again. ESY services are provided during breaks in the educational schedule to prevent this loss.

The consideration of both formal and informal evaluations, as well as documentation of individual student performance, are valuable in assisting an IEP team in determining need and extent of ESY services for a student. The first step in the ESY decision-making process is to gather the information that will be used by the IEP team to make the ESY eligibility decision.

Information on a student's progress on IEP goals and objectives should be collected all year long, especially just before and just after interruptions in educational programming. This information should be reported to parents as part of the progress-reporting requirement.

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The ESY eligibility determination will be made by the IEP team at the IEP meeting. Three criteria are used to determine a student's need for ESY services:

- ⇒ Regression-Recoupment,
- ⇒ Critical Point of Instruction and
- ⇒ Special Circumstances

It is important to understand that ESY services are required for those students with disabilities who require these services in order to receive FAPE. The need for ESY is Not to be based on the need or desire for:

- ⇒ Child care
- ⇒ Respite care
- ⇒ A summer recreation program

If you want to learn more about this option for your child and need guidance, grab your child's IEP and register for this webinar. It's an opportunity to learn more about the federal regulations that specifically address ESY services. Additionally, it will provide parents with the information on requesting these services and how IEP teams determine the need for ESY services.

Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Presenter: Shanida Mathieu

Registration link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7606274479486182915>

Date: Thursday, April 21, 2016

Time: 10:30 a.m.— 11:30 a.m.

Presenter: Shanida Mathieu

Registration link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6028949183139207683>



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