

Ann Arbor Public Schools

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY) INFORMATION

*(Adapted from the MDE Extended School Year Service in Michigan:
Standards and Guidance for Educators, Service Providers, and Families)*

What are ESY services?

ESY refers to special education and/or related services provided beyond the normal school year for the purpose of providing a FAPE to a student with a disability. The purpose of ESY is different from the purpose of enrichment programs, summer school programs offered to all students, or compensatory education programs, and are not simply an extension of the regular school year. ESY services are offered at no cost to parents and will vary in type, location, and length of time, depending on the individual needs of the student.

ESY services are NOT:

- for teaching new skills;
- based on the category of student's disability;
- mandated for all students with disabilities;
- required 12-month programs;
- child-care services;
- necessarily a continuation of the total IEP provided to a student with a disability during the regular school year;
- required to be provided all day or every day;
- an automatic provision from year-to-year;
- required to be provided in a traditional classroom setting;
- a service to be provided to maximize each student's potential;
- for credit recovery; and
- a replacement for lack of attendance.

Who is eligible for ESY services?

Any student with an IEP is eligible for the consideration of ESY services if ESY is essential to provide a FAPE. Each student has his or her own individual educational needs. Therefore, ESY services will accomplish different purposes for different students. Some students may suffer losses of social, behavioral, communication, academic, self-sufficiency or other skills during interruptions in academic year instruction. This is particularly relevant during long breaks, such as summer vacation. These losses may be so significant that they can actually jeopardize progress obtained during the regular academic year. When the school year resumes, it is possible that unreasonable amounts of time are needed to recoup lost skills. Case law has referred to these instances with terms such as regression and recoupment.

Are all students with disabilities required to have ESY services?

No. A student and/or his/her guardian(s) have the right to refuse ESY services in the event that they are offered. Likewise, a student and/or his/her guardian(s) have the right to appeal the decision of the IEP Team in the event that ESY services are not offered.

Should new goals be developed for ESY services?

No. ESY services are based on first identifying an existing annual goal area of concern and then determining the need for ESY services. ESY services are intended to maintain previously **learned** skills as identified in the current IEP. The purpose of ESY services is not to teach new skills. New goals **should not** be added to a student's IEP for the implementation of ESY services.

When should the IEP Team meet to determine ESY services?

The IEP Team is obligated to consider the need for ESY services at the annual IEPT meeting. While the student's IEP must be renewed every calendar year, there is no deadline for proposed ESY services within the IEP. In other words, the IEP Team may decide to add or subtract the need for various ESY services throughout the year, making changes to the IEP as necessary.

In the event that the need for ESY services and/or the characteristics of those services are not known at the time of the annual IEPT meeting, the *AAPS IEP Team will determine the need and services to be provided by the last day of March*. An addendum documenting any changes may be completed and attached to the current IEP.

Factors to Consider to Determine Eligibility for ESY

Please see separate link on determining the need for ESY.