

# EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SUMMER SERVICES

**IF YOUR CHILD HAS AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP), YOU MIGHT BE WONDERING IF THEY CAN RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES DURING THE SUMMER.**

## WHAT IS EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY)?

- Extended school year is a period of specialized instruction and/or related services which extends past the 10-month (September to June) school calendar.
- ESY is considered when special education students demonstrate substantial REGRESSION (loss of skills) and difficulty with RECOUPMENT (time needed to relearn skills).
- ESY services are to MAINTAIN progress made toward goals and are part of the student's IEP.
- ESY services are individualized and designed to meet the student's needs through a variety of program options.

## WHO IS CONSIDERED FOR ESY?

- Students who demonstrate SUBSTANTIAL regression extending beyond the typical expected range. All students may demonstrate some regression following extended breaks, therefore, educational programs include time at the beginning of the school year to allow students to relearn previously taught/mastered skills.
- Students whose ability to relearn skills exceeds beyond the time ordinarily reserved.
- Students whose management needs are determined to be HIGHLY INTENSIVE and require a high degree of individualized attention and intervention.
- Students with severe multiple disabilities, whose IEPs consist of placement in a special class with related services.
- ESY services are NOT for every student with an IEP. Only a small percentage of students receive summer services.
- ESY services are for students who "need" ESY to maintain skills not for those who "may benefit".

## HOW IS THE NEED FOR ESY DETERMINED?

- Members of the Committee on Preschool Special Education, which include general and special education teachers, related service providers, district chairpeople, county representatives and parents, may discuss the need for ESY.
- Data is collected and analyzed by teachers and service providers both before and after interruptions of service to determine if substantial regression and the ability to recoup skills exceeds the normal expected period.
- Both QUANTITATIVE (data driven) and QUALITATIVE (descriptive) information should be reviewed by the Committee on Preschool Special Education to substantiate the need for ESY services and/or programs.
- ESY eligibility must be based on multiple criteria and regression cannot be the only qualifying factor.
- The final determination of ESY is made by the Committee on Preschool Special Education at the student's CPSE meeting.

## HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD DURING THE SUMMER?

- ESY is not the only way to prevent your child from regressing. By remaining an active participant in your child's education throughout the school year and communicating regularly with members of the IEP team, you can reinforce your child's IEP goals at home.
- Plan to set aside time to work on these same skills over the summer months utilizing the strategies and suggestions provided by your child's teachers and therapists.
- Take advantage of summer learning and enrichment programs within your community.
- Explore use of educational applications and games to reinforce skills through technology.
- Ask your child's teachers and service providers to provide you with maintenance activities.

