

*Request ESY
services on your
child's 504 Plan
or Individual
Education
Program (IEP)*

Extended School Year Services

Over the summer vacation or during other school breaks, does your child forget skills learned during the previous year and need to learn them all over again? If so, you and members of your child's education planning team should discuss extended school years services (ESY).

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the federal law governing special education, guarantees children with disabilities ages 3 through 21 years a free appropriate public education. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act also mandates that children with disabilities who qualify must receive an education that is appropriate and at no cost to the parents.

Federal and state special education laws do not specify the length of the school day, the number of days in the school year, or the frequency of services. For students with disabilities, these decisions are part of the IEP or 504 process, which outlines the services that a child will receive based on their individual needs.

To decide whether a child is eligible for extended school year services, the team will consider the type and severity of the child's disability and the evidence that they experience significant loss of skills (regression) that are not relearned in a reasonable length of time or if the student's disability presents a **danger** of substantial regression.

If you think your child will need extended school year services, ask for a meeting with their IEP or 504 team early enough in the school year to allow the school district to plan for the necessary services. Even January is not too early to get started to talk about summer services.



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802-876-5315

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When written into the IEP or 504 Plan, extended school year services may be provided in a variety of settings including day camps or other community settings and programs. Services during the summer could differ from those provided during the regular school year. As an example, to help develop your child's gross motor skills during the summer, the plan might include riding a bike or learning to swim.

Questions to ask

When planning for extended school year services (ESY), here are some things to consider.

- Is an ESY program necessary to help your child maintain progress toward reaching their annual educational goals?
- How does the severity of your child's disability affect their progress reaching these goals?
- How do school breaks or breaks in services affect your child's progress?
- Are there areas of your child's program which need ongoing attention? ESY services can include (but would not be limited to) academic tutorials, physical therapy, speech-language therapy, social skills development, and behavior management.
- Is a summer program necessary for your child to keep from regressing in the skill areas they have already achieved?

Things you can do

- Keep written notes about your child's progress and request progress reports and data.
- Talk to last year's IEP or 504 team and to your child's current teachers and ask for data regarding any regression or significant loss of skills during school breaks.
- Get written opinions from other professionals who know your child.
- Understand your rights.

Finally, remember that the school district is not required to provide extended school year services unless they are written into your child's IEP or 504 Plan so be sure to discuss the need for extended school year services with your team and get it included in your child's plan.

Resources

[Vermont Agency of Education](#)
Special Education Technical Assistance. 802-828-1256

[Disability Law Project](#)
The Disability Law Project (DLP) represents people with civil legal problems related to their disability. 800-889-2047

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