



## EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR 2017 FAQ SHEET

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: FAQ's

#### **What is ESY?**

A key factor in the determination of ESY services is based on an analysis of regression and recoupment. ESY decisions are individualized and based on the needs and circumstances of each student. ESY programs may include special education and/or related services and must be specified on the IEP.

All children "regress"--lose progress, forget, revert to previous behavior--to some extent between school years. It must be determined whether a child's regression would likely be substantial, and whether the child would require a greater than usual time to "recoup"--to get back to the level the child had achieved before a break in service. "(Question and Answer Guide on Special Education Extended School Year Programs, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 12/5/2002)

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education interprets a child's difficulties with "recoupment" to be an aspect of "significant regression". Specifically, significant regression and recoupment consist of the following inter-related elements:(1) the loss of performance levels that were attained before a break in service,(2) the child's limited learning rate, which lengthens the amount of time the child requires to review and/or relearn previously attained objectives, and(3) the fact that the time for that child to accomplish such recoupment is greater than the period of time the school district allows all other children for review and/or relearning.

IEP teams also consider the degree and nature of the student's disability as well as other environmental and contextual variables in determining a child's needs for extended school year services.

#### **Why are ESY services different from the school year?**

Since ESY services are proposed in order to avoid substantial regression/recoupment, the portion of the child's IEP for ESY services may differ from the portion of the IEP that governs the provision of services for the regular school year. Such differences may be separately described on an additional IEP service delivery grid that specifically outlines the proposed extended school year services and their duration and frequency.

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, has indicated: *It is . . . reasonable for an extended school year IEP to concentrate on the areas in which the child may experience regression.*

The purpose of ESY is to maintain skills that were acquired during the school year, and to prevent substantial regression. Given this purpose, the ESY day may not be as long as the school year day, and the focus of services is on areas where students are likely to regress.

#### **Why does my child not receive ESY?**

Students receive ESY only if the IEP Team has determined that they meet the criteria for receiving this service. Decisions about whether to recommend a student for ESY are made on an individual basis at IEP Team Meetings based on data that is collected over time. If you have any questions about whether your child may qualify for ESY, please contact your team specialist/liasion.

#### **Why does ESY start after the private camps start?**

The public school department calendar has a week after the official end of school each year that is required in the event of snow days during the year. As winter weather is unpredictable, the school department has to factor in the potential for school running a week longer than planned in any given year.



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### **Why do ESY weeks not align with camp weeks?**

As noted above, the school department is constrained by the public school calendar. Most private schools end their school years by the beginning of June. While we do our best to align wherever possible, the school department is unable to accommodate all the schedules of private and public summer camp programs.

### **NPS has changed some of their ESY service delivery over the past years. Can they do that?**

In 2014, Newton conducted a review of their service delivery models including services under ESY. This included parent surveys and input. Historically, in support of and in response to parent's needs, summer scheduling, working families, NPS has both offered and provided services and supports during summer that far exceeded the IEP needs and goals of the majority of students eligible for ESY. In many cases, the hours provided during the summer not only exceeded the student's ESY requirements, they exceeded the hours of services student's received during the school year. As a result of this and in an effort to better align ESY services with student's needs, the district made some changes to the ESY service delivery models including changes in the hours of services and days of services in some programs. At the time the change was made, the district ensured that there would be no impact to any student's FAPE in the area of ESY. At this time, in support of families, NPS is still providing services and hours during summer that exceed the requirements of many students, and go above and beyond the provision of FAPE.

While NPS offers a broad range of services and supports as part of their ESY Programming, each student's needs are considered and reviewed on an individualized basis. If the breadth and depth of program offerings do not meet an individual's student's ESY needs, the team customizes accordingly to ensure that each child receives all services necessary for the provision of FAPE. The district is very mindful that districts and teams may not "unilaterally limit the type, amount, or duration of those services." (34 CFR § 300.106(a)(3)(ii)).

Please do not hesitate to contact your relevant special education director/administrator if you have any questions or concerns about your child's ESY services.

### **What do I need to do to sign up for afternoon camp/program sessions or Friday sessions?**

At the elementary level the special education department unites with three Newton summer programs (Ablemarle Acres, Echo Bridge and Space). Ablemarle Acres and Echo Bridge are run by the Newton Parks and Recreation Department and Space is run by the Newton Public Schools. The hours of ESY at Space is 9:00 am to 1:00 pm each day and at Echo and Ablemarle they are 8:30-3:30 Monday through Thursday.

Any student may enroll in additional camp/program hours each week. This should be arranged directly with either the Recreation Department (Ablemarle, Echo) or Space (Newton Public). Ablemarle, Echo and Space will provide the needed staffing to support students during additional hours beyond the ESY recommendation.

Recreation contact number: 617 796-1500

Space Contact number: 617 559-6150



