

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 interrelated 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.

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 liaison/director/administrator if you have any questions or concerns about your child's ESY 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 and week may not be as long as the school year day and week, 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/liaison.

Why does ESY start after the private camps start?

The public school 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.

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.

What do I need to do to sign up for afternoons at SPACE or Fridays at Echo Bridge?

At the elementary level the special education department collaborates with two Newton summer programs (Echo Bridge and SPACE). Echo Bridge is run by the Newton Parks and Recreation Department and SPACE is run by the Newton Public Schools. The recommended ESY services and hours are individualized by student and are usually less hours than the programs are open at these 2 locations.

Any student who is recommended to receive ESY services at SPACE or Echo may enroll in additional hours at each of these two locations. This is a family preference and should be arranged directly with Echo or Space. Echo or Space will provide the needed staffing to support students during additional hours (beyond the ESY recommendation) if a family signs up for additional time. The Newton Public Schools and the Newton Recreation department are committed to ensuring that all students have equal access and full financial support is available to all families who qualify for it.

Recreation Contact number: (617) 796-1500

Space Contact number: (617) 559-6150