



# Extended School Year (ESY)

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## What is ESY?

- ▶ Special education and related services that are provided to students with disabilities beyond the 180-day school year.
- ▶ The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the federal special education law, states that school districts must provide ESY services if a student needs these services to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

## Why ESY?

- ▶ Interruptions in instruction may result in children with disabilities losing their basic skills and taking a longer time for them to regain those skills once school is back in session.
- ▶ ESY services are provided beyond the regular 180-day school year to prevent this loss.

## How is Eligibility Determined?

- ▶ ESY must be considered each year for every student with a disability.
- ▶ The IEP team makes its decision about providing ESY services by examining data that have been collected throughout the school year, including before and after scheduled breaks within the school year
- ▶ The team can also review input provided by teachers, parents, or other members of the IEP team.

## 7 Factors of Eligibility:

### ▶ Regression

...lower level of functioning evidenced by a measurable decrease in skills/behaviors that occur as a result of an interruption of educational programming

### ▶ Recoupment

...the capacity to recover skills or behavior patterns evidenced by a measurable decrease in skills/behaviors that occur as a result of an interruption of educational programming

### ▶ Regression/Recoupment

...student's difficulties with regression **and** recoupment make it unlikely that the student will maintain the skills and behaviors relevant to the IEP goals

## 7 Factors of Eligibility: (Continued)

### ▶ Mastery

...the extent to which the student has mastered and consolidated an important skill or behavior at the point when educational programming would be interrupted

### ▶ Self-sufficiency and Independence

...the extent to which a skill or behavior is particularly crucial for the student to meet the IEP goals of self-sufficiency and independence from caretakers

### ▶ Successive Interruptions

...the extent to which successive interruptions in educational programming result in a student's withdrawal from the learning process

### ▶ Severity of Disability

...whether the student's disability is severe, such as autism/pervasive developmental disorder, serious emotional disturbance, severe intellectual disabilities, degenerative impairments with mental involvement and severe multiple disabilities

## Steps in ESY Determination:

1. Gather information regarding student progress toward IEP goals (particularly before/after breaks in the school schedule)
2. Make the determination regarding eligibility based on the 7 factors at the IEP team meeting
3. Document the ESY determination in the IEP
4. Issue the Notice of Recommended Education Placement (NOREP)