



## Extended School Year

Extended school year (ESY) services are services designed to help students with disabilities maintain a skill in one or more goal areas of concern. ESY is provided beyond the normal school year and is no cost to the family. The Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team must consider, annually, whether ESY services are needed to provide a [free appropriate public education](#) for each student with a disability. Each student's needs are considered individually, and ESY determinations are made by the IEP Team based on data. ESY cannot be denied or provided solely based on the category of a disability.

## IEP Team Considerations

**Annually, the IEP Team must determine whether there is at least one IEP annual goal that might not be maintained if services do not continue beyond the normal school year.**

**If yes:**

- Does the student's data show regression, or inability to maintain a skill, when special education instruction or services in the goal area is interrupted and requires an unreasonable amount of time to regain the skill?
- Does the student's data support the need for services to maintain the skill(s) in the identified goal area during breaks in the school year due to the nature or severity of the student's disability?
- Does the student's data indicate the student is at a critical stage of learning that will severely limit the student's ability to maintain essential skills if services are not provided beyond the normal school year?

### Other Considerations and Requirements

- The need for ESY services must be based on data about the student's progress towards identified goals, not a formula.
- The least restrictive environment (LRE) for ESY and the normal school year are different.
- ESY is a set of services that are individualized. ESY is not a program.
- ESY services are provided in a variety of ways including a specified number of days in a traditional classroom, in the community, or in the student's home.
- ESY services are provided only for annual goals identified as concerns.
- New annual goals are not developed for ESY.
- The need for ESY services must be evaluated at each IEP Team meeting.

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*Family Matters fact sheets are intended to enhance public understanding of Michigan's special education system and are not a substitute for official laws and regulations.*



## Summer School Versus Extended School Year (ESY)

Summer School	ESY
<p><b>Summer school typically consists of general education classes. The classes are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available to all students (with or without an IEP or a 504 plan).</li> <li>• Offered beyond the course of the regular school year.</li> <li>• For developing or remediating academic skills.</li> <li>• Work that is specifically in the general education curriculum.</li> <li>• Typically at a cost for the family.</li> <li>• Available at some schools by completing a registration form.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ESY services are specially designed instruction in IEP annual goal(s). Services are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available for eligible students with an IEP who qualify.</li> <li>• Provided beyond the regular school year.</li> <li>• Designed to maintain skills in one or more goal area(s) of concern.</li> <li>• Individualized to meet the unique needs of the student based on data and determined by the IEP Team.</li> <li>• At no cost to the family of students who qualify.</li> <li>• Provided by the district, as necessary, to ensure a FAPE.</li> </ul>

## Resources



[Michigan Alliance for Families:  
Extended School Year](#)

- Michigan Department of Education (MDE)
  - » [Standards for Extended School Year in Michigan](#)
  - » [Individualized Education Program Development: Extended School Year Services](#)