

Extended School Year



What Are Extended School Year (ESY) services?

Extended school year services (ESY) means the individualized extension of specific special education and related services that are provided to a student with a disability beyond the normal school year of SCPS, in accordance with the IEP, at no cost to the parents or guardians, and that meets the standards of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). ESY services are only necessary to FAPE when the benefits that a student with a disability gains during a regular school year will be significantly jeopardized if he is not provided with an educational program during the summer months.

Who decides whether or not a student receives ESY services?

The IEP team, including the parents, decides whether ESY services are needed for the provision of FAPE. The IEP team shall consider the following factors to determine whether the benefits a disabled child gains during a regular school year will be significantly jeopardized if he/she is not provided with an educational program during the summer months.

- Whether the child's IEP includes annual goals related to critical life skills;
- Whether it is likely that the child would suffer a substantial regression of critical life skills caused by the normal school break and would fail to recover those lost skills in a reasonable time;
- The child's progress toward mastery of IEP goals and objectives;
- The presence of emerging skills or breakthrough opportunities;
- Interfering behaviors;
- The nature and/or severity of the disability; and
- Special circumstances.

When does the IEP team determine whether or not a student needs ESY services?

At least annually, The IEP team shall determine whether the student requires ESY services. This determination should be made early enough in the school year to allow the parent sufficient time to exercise their procedural safeguard rights if they disagree with the proposal made by the local school system. However, it should not be made so early as to not have sufficient information in order to make an informed decision.