

**Extended School Year (ESY) Services Questions and Answers**  
**ESY Collaborative Webinar Series with the Texas Education Agency (TEA)**  
**May 21, 2019 @ 12:15 CDT**

**1. What are Extended School Year (ESY) services?**

ESY services are:

- Individualized special education and related services
- Provided to an eligible child with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Provided at no cost to the parent(s)

It is important to understand that ESY services are not summer school, enrichment programs or compensatory services.

**2. How do I know if my child needs ESY services?**

The need for ESY services is determined by your child's Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) committee. You are a member of the ARD committee as your child's parent(s).

**3. Who is eligible to receive ESY services?**

ESY services are determined by the child's ARD committee. ESY services are not limited to any one category of disability. All disability categories are considered for ESY services. The need for ESY services must be documented from formal and/or informal evaluations provided by the district or the parents.

**4. What is considered a "critical skill"?**

A skill is critical when the loss of that skill results, or is expected to result in, any of the following during the first eight weeks of school:

- placement in a more restrictive setting
- loss of acquired skills necessary for progress in the general curriculum
- loss of self-sufficiency in self-help skill areas
- loss of access to community-based independent living skills instruction or independent living environment
- loss of access to on-the-job training or employment

**5. What factors should be considered when determining my child's eligibility for ESY?**

Regression-Recoupment Analysis considers:

- Impact of break in service on critical skill(s)
- Degree of regression of critical skill(s)
- Time required for recoupment of critical skill(s)

Regression is the loss or decrease in the level of a child's previously acquired skills or abilities. Recoupment is how long it takes a child to relearn skills after returning from a break. Many children lose some skills over school breaks and then must relearn those skills when back in school. This applies to short breaks like holidays as well as the traditional long summer break. The important distinction is whether the child with a disability will experience significantly more

regression and will take significantly more time to recoup lost skills than the child without disabilities. ESY services are appropriate for children with disabilities who require extensive reteaching to recoup critical skills. The period for recoupment must not exceed eight weeks.

ESY services are necessary when the progress the child made during the regular school year will be significantly jeopardized during extended school breaks.

- Nature and severity of child's disability  
Are the nature and severity of the child's disability likely to jeopardize the child's ability to benefit from the instructional program if there is a lapse in instructional support?
- Child's degree of progress toward IEP goals  
Will the loss of services during the school break significantly jeopardize the child's progress toward the goals?
- Child's behavior  
Does the child exhibit behaviors, such as aggressive, violent or self-injurious behaviors?  
Does the child need ESY services to keep the interfering behaviors from jeopardizing the educational benefit the child can receive from the instructional program during the next school year?
- Child's emerging skills and breakthrough opportunities  
Is the child at a breakthrough point in a critical skill, such as reading? Will the interruption of services jeopardize the educational benefit the child is receiving from the specialized instruction?
- Least restrictive environment  
Will a break in services set the child back so much that, once school resumes, the child will need to spend less time in the general education classroom and more time receiving intensive special education services?
- Starting school for the first time (example: transition from Part C: Early Childhood Intervention to Part B: Special Education Early Childhood)  
Is this a child with an IEP who is starting school for the first time who may need ESY services?

**6. Should my child have IEP goals and objectives that will be worked on during ESY services?**

Goals and objectives in your child's current IEP will be addressed during ESY services. Not all goals implemented during the regular school year will be addressed during ESY services. The IEP developed for ESY services will include current goals that address critical skills.

**7. Are ESY services the "same" as the services my child receives during the regular school year?**

Any ESY service provided should be directly related to your child's critical skill performance. Typically, ESY services are not the "same" as those provided during the regular school year. The ESY services provided are those determined by the ARD committee to be necessary to maintain the present levels of critical skills.

**8. When does my child's ARD committee consider ESY services?**

- An ARD committee considers ESY services at the initial ARD meeting and at each annual ARD meeting.

- An ARD committee meeting can be scheduled at any time to specifically consider ESY services.
- If the Full and Individual Initial Evaluation (FIIE) indicates the need for ESY services, the initial ARD committee meeting must be conducted prior to the summer break.

**9. Are ESY services only available to students during summer vacation?**

Typically, ESY services are available during the summer months. However, ESY services:

- are not limited to the summer break (generally the longest break from the regular school year)
- may be needed during shorter breaks (such as winter and spring holiday breaks) lasting one or two weeks.

**10. The school told me that my child does not qualify for ESY services. What can I do if I disagree with that decision?**

The ARD committee needs to meet early enough in the regular school year to allow enough time in case the parent disagrees with the decision the child is not eligible for ESY services. ARD committee members, including the parent, are encouraged to try resolving any disputes locally before going straight to due process. Learn more about this in the [Parent's Guide to the ARD Process](#).