

**Special Education News**  
**By Lisa Vandiver, Special Education Director**

Dear Parent of a Special Needs Child,

We are sending you this notice to advise you of our Extended School Year (ESY) program and rights your child may have to ESY services.

1. ***What are ESY services?*** ESY services are individual extensions of special education and related services that are provided to a student with a disability beyond the normal school year – for example, during school and summer vacations. They are provided by the district at no cost to the parent so that students may maintain the skills they've learned during the school year. ESY services vary in intensity, location, type of service, and length of time, depending upon each student's needs.

***ESY services are NOT:***

- *Child care services;*
  - *A continuation of the total IEP provided during the regular school year;*
  - *Intended to teach new skills;*
  - *Required to be provided all day, everyday, or each day during the normal school break; or*
  - *Automatically provided from year to year.*
2. ***Who can receive ESY services?*** Not every student with a disability is entitled to receive ESY services based on the factors below. Rather, students who are determined by their IEP team, based on the factors below, to need ESY services are entitled to receive them as part of a free appropriate public education.
  3. ***Who determines whether my child is eligible for ESY services?*** Decisions about ESY eligibility are made through the IEP process. The student's IEP team, including parents and guardians, determine whether ESY services are necessary, based on the following factors:
    - The student's progress towards IEP goals;
    - The nature and severity of the disability;
    - The likelihood of regression caused by the school break and failure to recover critical skills within a reasonable time period;
    - The presence of any interfering behaviors that might impede a student's ability to learn;
    - The availability of alternative resources; and
    - The child's ability to interact with nondisabled peers.ESY eligibility is not limited to students with particular types of disabilities.
  4. ***When is the determination made?*** The determination is made during the student's Annual IEP meeting once a year. We will send you a Notice of Recommended Education Placement, which contains the IEP team's determination about whether your child is eligible for ESY services. Additionally, you may request an IEP meeting to determine ESY eligibility at any time.