



Prince George's County Public Schools
<http://www1.pgcps.org/>
Extended School Year (ESY) Services

**A FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND SURROGATES OF STUDENTS WITH
DISABILITIES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) provides Extended School Year (ESY) services to eligible students receiving special education services. These services are part of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for students with disabilities and are usually provided in the summer. Eligibility for ESY is reviewed and determined during the Annual Review Conference. This brochure is intended to help you understand ESY and eligibility.

WHAT IS ESY?

ESY refers to services provided beyond the school year that are designed to meet specific objectives included in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). ESY services will vary in type, intensity, location, length of time, amount of related services and inclusion, depending upon the student's needs. ESY is not simply the extension of time in school, an automatic summer school placement or a summer enrichment program. ESY is not appropriate for every student with a disability, even though there may be some educational benefit and, in fact, may be appropriate for a relatively small number of students with disabilities. However, there is a legal obligation to determine ESY eligibility for every student with an IEP.

WHO MAKES THE ESY DECISION?

ESY eligibility and services are determined at the Annual Review Conference, which is held at a student's school for the purpose of developing the following year's IEP. The members of the IEP Team include the student's parents/guardians/surrogate, the student (if appropriate), the principal or the principal's designee, the student's special education teacher, a regular classroom teacher and others who parents or the school feel can be helpful to the process. This could include the student's speech/language pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, vision or mobility teacher, etc.

HOW IS ESY ELIGIBILITY DETERMINED?

During the Annual Review Conference, the IEP Team determines whether the student's IEP has critical life skill objectives and reviews the student's progress toward those objectives. A critical life skill is any skill determined by the IEP Team/IEP Committee to be critical to the student's overall educational progress. If critical life skills are identified, the IEP Team determines whether the student meets any of the following ESY eligibility criteria and determine, based upon the factors below, whether the benefits of the student gains during regular school year will be significantly jeopardized if the student is not provided with an educational program during the normal break in the regular school year.

1. Regression/ Recoupment
2. Degree of Progress
3. Emerging Skills/Breakthrough Opportunities
4. Interfering Behaviors
5. Nature and/or Severity of the Disability
6. Special Circumstances

The Department of Special Education

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HOW ARE THE ESY SERVICES DEVELOPED?

If a student qualifies for ESY services, the IEP Team will:

- Identify goals to be addressed during ESY
- specific goals and objectives that require ESY services;
- the type(s), amount(s) and duration of special education and related service(s), including transportation, needed to meet the ESY IEP objectives;
- the least restrictive environment in which the ESY services can be provided in order to meet the ESY IEP objectives, and
- the amount of time the student will participate with non-disabled peers.

ESY programs will vary in type, intensity, location, length of time and amount of related services, depending on the student's needs. ESY services may be provided in a variety of settings including: general education schools, special schools, the community, job sites, and the home. The IEP Team will determine the most appropriate ESY services and setting for each student.

WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE IEP TEAM'S DECISION?

Parents/guardians/surrogates are valued members of the IEP Team and will be asked to participate fully regarding the ESY decision-making process for their student. Within 10 business days following the meeting, a written notice of all decisions made during the Annual Review Conference will be received. In the event that the parent/guardian/surrogate disagrees with the IEP Team's decision regarding the services, the decision can be appealed by requesting a special education due process hearing.

HOW CAN I OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING ESY ELIGIBILITY AND SERVICES OR MY DUE PROCESS RIGHTS?

The information outlined in this brochure is discussed further at each student's Annual Review Conference. Information regarding due process rights is explained in the PGcps brochure entitled, *Procedural Safeguards: Parental Rights*.

Additional ESY information as well as copies of the MSDE *Procedural Safeguards: Parental Rights* document is available at the following PGcps offices:

K-12 Special Education Programs, Jessie B. Mason Specialty Center
301-702-2890

Compliance and Due Process Office, Edgar Allan Poe Elementary School
301-817-3137

THE PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS RESOURCE CENTERS
Serving families and educators of children with disabilities
8908 Riggs Road, Suite 229
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