

Take Data Before and Following Breaks to Prepare for IEP Team Extended School Year (ESY) Decisions

In order to make informed and defensible decisions regarding whether a student with disabilities requires extended school year (ESY) services, IEP teams should collect data throughout the school year, and particularly over breaks (e.g., winter break, spring break, weekends, etc.). [WAC 392-172A-02020](#) requires that school districts develop ESY eligibility criteria that includes, but is not limited to, regression and recoupment time based on documented evidence. Data collection should focus on determining:

- whether the student regresses when there is a break from school;
- which target IEP skills or behaviors have a significant loss if educational services are interrupted;
- length of time for the student to recoup skills; and/or
- whether the student received private services over the break, and if so, what type of services and for what frequency/duration.

For students being considered for Extended School Year (ESY) services, now is a good time to remind your IEP teams to continue to gather data during the upcoming breaks of instructions (e.g., winter break, spring break, weekends, etc.). Data should be collected both before and after the break in order to monitor regression/recoupment.

In order for special education staff to share information effectively about ESY decision-making with parents and general education staff, areas -- in addition to data collection -- to consider for professional development include:

- ESY is an individual decision based on many different sources of information that must be reviewed every year from a fresh perspective.
- The purpose of ESY services is to work on one or more IEP goals that cannot be maintained without ESY services; it is not the purpose of ESY services to work on new goals or objectives.
- A student with one or more goal areas of concern may need ESY services for a variety of reasons, not just regression or recoupment. Other factors for IEP teams to consider and collect data include the nature and severity of the student's disability, rate of progress, and emerging skills.
- ESY services can be provided in many different ways, including using community resources as part of an individual ESY plan.

ESY services are not limited to the summer breaks. While this is generally the longest break from the normal school year, ESY services may be needed during shorter breaks (such as winter and spring holiday breaks) of one or two weeks in length. ESY services can even be an extension of the student's normal school day.





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