

MIDWEST SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE

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To: Special Education Case Managers
From: Wendy Van Batavia
RE: Extended School Year

Extended School Year

The IEP team must determine if a student is eligible for ESY. A student may be eligible under the category A. Regression and Recoupment, B. Self Sufficiency or C. Pupil's Unique Need.

In order to be eligible for ESY category A. Regression/Recoupment, you will need documented data collected over the previous summer break or after school holiday breaks to support this determination. The student must demonstrate **significant regression**, the time required to relearn the skills lost is excessive or the effects of the breaks in programming prevents the student from attaining the B. state of Self-Sufficiency the student would have been expected to reach. Excessive time for skills lost is generally thought to be more than three weeks (for our most significant cases) and up to 10 weeks for the rest of our students. While 10 weeks may seem excessive, it should be noted that recent data from SCRED indicates all students experience regression of similar rates.

If the team believes the student meets eligibility for category C. Pupil's Unique Need, please document those reasons. Please note: Category C. Pupil's Unique Need is for **very** unique circumstances, for example a student with emerging language for a nonverbal student. Call Wendy or Todd when you think this is the most appropriate category.

Important points to remember:

1. **ESY is the exception and not the rule.**
2. **ESY is required only to ensure an appropriate education, not to maximize the gains or optimize the benefits.**
3. **New goals and objectives should not be added.**

Extended School Year Service Examples:

1. **Skill Maintenance Activities:** These are written descriptions of activities for parents or other care givers to provide for the student on a regular basis over the summer break. The activities will be provided by the student's school year service providers. Examples include parent directed activities, guidelines for parents to follow when reading to the student, suggestions of community activities and other guidelines for parents to assure necessary skill practice.
2. **Skill Maintenance Packets/Kits:** These are school materials prepared and organized for the parent or care giver to use on a regular basis over the summer break. The materials are prepared and directions written by the student's school year service providers. Examples might include worksheets, flash cards, books, computer software, writing assignments, reading assignments, fine motor activities, and social skills activities.
3. **Licensed Staff Telephone Consultation:** This service would typically be in addition to use of skill maintenance activities and/or packets. Licensed Special Education teachers would be available for phone consult regarding use of the activities or packets at specifically scheduled intervals throughout the summer break. Licensed staff consultation could be available to the parent, care giver, or to some community agency or facility working with that student. Examples might include arrangements made between a parent and a teacher for a regular biweekly phone call to review activities, arrangements between the parent and the Community Education

program to have a phone consult with select staff, arrangements between the parent and teacher to talk biweekly for social skill activity suggestions, arrangement between the parent, daycare provider, and teacher for regular consults regarding social skill and behavior management strategies.

4. **Licensed Staff In-Person Consultation:** This service would involve planned and pre-scheduled consultation sessions provided to parents, care givers, or a community facility or agency. Licensed Special Education teachers would schedule consultation sessions throughout the summer to assist parents and care givers in providing skill practice opportunities to the student. Examples might include arrangements for the Community Ed. Staff to schedule consultation with a service provider when new activities are planned, arrangements between the parent and daycare provider to meet with licensed staff on a regular basis to plan and review skill maintenance activities.

5. **Licensed Staff Direct Skill Maintenance Sessions:** This service would require parents and school year service staff to design specific skills practice lessons for the student throughout the summer break. The length of the skill maintenance session times must be based on the amount of practice needed to MAINTAIN a student's performance level on the specific skills determined eligible for ESY service. This service would typically be in addition to the parent providing regular practice of skills through the use of practice activities, packets, or consultation services. Examples might include arrangements for a teacher to meet with a student in a supervised location to collect data on a student's performance level following a practice session. School year service providers will design and provide materials for the sessions.

If you have questions about ESY, please contact Wendy or Todd at the Midwest office. Also, please be sure to talk with your building administrator informed and a part of the process.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Browns Valley #801
Cyrus #611
Morris Area #769

Chokio-Alberta #771
Hancock #768
West Central Area #2342

Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley #2888
Herman-Norcross #264
Wheaton #803