

The draft IEP should include PLOP, assessment results along with comparisons, where appropriate, from previous assessments to illustrate growth over time, and other available information. The service provider should also provide draft goals and objectives for the parent to look at, and a copy of the previous year's updated goals and objectives.

### **Resource Allocation**

New and existing resource allocations committed on IEPs must be approved in advance (at least 2 days prior to the IEP meeting) through the Special Education Director or Program Specialist. Appropriate rationale and data supporting the projected allocation must be presented before approval can be given. Resources that are not cleared in advance will become the fiscal responsibility of the school site of the administrator who committed the funds and signed the IEP. The IEP team needs to reflect on services that have been provided to the student in the past, or that are being considered currently in order to determine the student's need.

### **Transportation**

Transportation is provided for SDC students when the student is not placed at his/her home school site. Transportation is not provided for parental convenience, and pick up and delivery times are not part of the IEP process, nor should they be indicated on the IEP.

### **Extra or Additional Hours—RSP & SDC aides/paraeducators**

Extra hours for RSP & SDC aides and paraeducators must be approved by the Special Education Director in advance or they will become the fiscal responsibility of the school site where they were incurred.

### **Extended School Year (ESY)**

Extended School Year (ESY) runs for 20 days for eligible pre-school and elementary school students; 25 days for students in grades 7-12. Eligibility for ESY is an IEP team decision and should be part of the yearly IEP discussion. See the following pages for specific guidelines regarding the ESY eligibility process. Students who do not choose to attend Extended School Year are not eligible for compensatory education services.

## **EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR**

### **I. DEFINITIONS**

- **Regular School Year** - must be a minimum of 180 school days.
- **Extended School Year (ESY)** - any individualized instructional program which is extended beyond the regular school year for handicapped students who are enrolled in a school district's special education program.
- **Mastery** - the successful demonstration of an acquired skill, at the designated level of proficiency specified in the evaluation criteria defined for that skill, in the student's IEP.
- **Regression** - the loss, as a result of a scheduled break in instruction, of one or more mastered skills included in the short-term objectives of the student's IEP.

- **Recoupment** - following a scheduled break in instruction, the process of regaining a previously mastered skill through review and reteaching.
- **Recoupment Time** - the length of time required to regain previously mastered skills.
- **Regression-Recoupment Syndrome** - the name applied to the belief that, following a scheduled break in instruction, a student will have lost one or more mastered skills and that it will take varying lengths of time to relearn those skills.
- **No Educational Benefit** - regression because of summer vacation to such an extent that: (a) following review and reteaching, recoupment of one or more mastered skills does not occur during the first ten (10) weeks of instructions in the next school year or (b) the loss of one or more acquired critical skills addressed in the current IEP would be unusually substantial and severe.

## **II. GUIDELINES FOR EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR**

A review of the literature, as well as practical experience, indicates that both handicapped (and nonhandicapped) students regress during breaks in instruction. The amount of regression and the length of time required to recoup previously mastered skills varies widely among all students.

It is the policy of the State Department of Education that when necessary to insure a free appropriate public education (FAPE), each local school district shall offer an extended school year to those handicapped students whose Regression-Recoupment Syndrome is so severe that it can be predicted that they will have gained no educational benefit from their previous year's educational program (as defined in the IEP) without an extended school year. The purpose of the extended program is to maintain each student's mastered skills so that the summer vacation periods will not render the previous year's educational program of no educational benefit.

## **III. PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION AND ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR**

### ***A. General***

The need for an extended school year must be considered on at least an annual basis at an IEP meeting. The IEP Team must review available data relative to the student's mastered skills and educational history. Based on this review, the IEP Team must predict whether the regression that will occur because of the lengthy break in instruction (summer vacation) will be to such a marked degree that recoupment of a previously mastered skill(s) will not occur during the first ten (10) weeks of instruction in the following school year or the loss of one or more acquired critical skills addressed in the current IEP would be unusually substantial and severe. It is possible that the extended school year may only include the maintenance of skills previously mastered as a result of a related service if loss of that skill will result in no educational benefit. Generally speaking,

handicapped students who require an extended school year will have severe problems in one or more of the following areas:

- physical, emotional, communication, and self-help and
- will need intensive instruction, including related services, across several of these areas. Conversely, when one considers how more mildly handicapped students function and what expectations are for them, it is likely that very few of them will require an extended program to derive educational benefit during the regular school year.

***B. Suggested Data to be Reviewed at the IEP Meeting***

The following list contains some of the information which may be helpful when preparing to make the decision about an extended school year:

- current and previous IEP,
- checklists/curricula or other records showing when skills were mastered
- attendance information
- recommendations from professionals
- behavioral logs
- video/audio tape information, if available
- other assessment data.

***C. Using the Data for Decision Making at the IEP meeting***

After gathering available data, consider the following while making the decision as to whether an extended school year is to be provided for the child:

- Compare the mastery of IEP objectives prior to previous summer breaks with performance after summer breaks. If little or no regression was measured, then there is no indication of the need for extended programming.
- If regression was noted and instruction was provided to reteach skills which were lost, note the time required for recoupment. If IEP objectives mastered the previous year were not recouped during the first time (10) weeks of instruction in the next school year or it is projected that the loss of one or more acquired critical skills addressed in the IEP would be unusually substantial and severe, the child is eligible to receive an extended school year.
- Make sure that significant regression-recoupment in the past occurred because of extended breaks in instruction. Make sure that the regression was not caused by a lengthy absence or failure to review and reteach previously mastered skills. Significant regression-recoupment problems based on this information would not necessarily indicate the need for an extended school year.
- Some skills which were mastered in the previous year's program may be of minimal importance to higher levels of functioning and may no longer be in need of emphasis. Predicted loss and lengthy

recouping of these skills would probably not indicate the need for an extended school year.

- When determining the content of the extended school program, only mastered skills will be considered for inclusion in the extended year program.
- If a prediction of significant regression-recouping problems cannot be made because the previous year's data is unavailable, an extended school year may be recommended if other data indicate the probability of significant regression-recouping problems. In such cases, there should be recognized research which supports the decision. You may also consider what regression occurred during scheduled holidays and other times when the student was out of school for a week or more. This option should only be used for students who exhibit severe problems.
- Determine whether performance within specific developmental areas, as identified on the IEP, is in an accelerated critical phase of acquisition so that the summer interruption in educational programming would cause significant problems in the mastery of that skill and subsequent skills.
- If the IEP Team determines that there is documentation that there is one or more critical skills addressed in the current IEP objectives and that loss of these acquired critical skills would be unusually severe or substantial, then ESY may be justified without consideration of the time period for recouping of such skills.

**A skill is critical when the loss of that skill is projected to result in any of the following unplanned occurrences during the first ten (10) weeks of the next regular school year:**

- \* Placement in a more restrictive instructional environment,
- \* Significant loss of self-sufficiency in self-help areas as evidenced by an increase in the number of staff required to provide special education or related services, and/or
- \* Loss of access to on-the-job training or productive employment.

#### **IV. DOCUMENTING THE DECISION FOR EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR AT THE IEP MEETING**

On at least an annual basis at an IEP meeting, the decision regarding ESY services must be documented and maintained in the student's file. This decision is not irreversible. At anytime that data maintained on the student indicates that the ESY decision was incorrect, IEP revision procedures must be followed to change the decision.

When it is determined that a student meets the criteria for an extended school year, the specific skill(s) to be maintained must be identified on the IEP. The IEP Team must also address the amount of time per day, the number of days per week and the number of

weeks that the instruction will be provided to maintain the skills. While students who require an extended school year generally need intensive instruction during the regular school year to show progress it is probable that mastered skills can be maintained across the summer with less instruction.

If a related service is required for educational benefit during the Extended School Year, skills to be maintained must be those listed within the IEP. Related services (DIS such as speech, OT, or other) may or may not be required by the student. It is important to remember that equivalent services are not mandated to continue during ESY, nor are they required to continue at the same rate as during the regular school year. For instance, a student who has demonstrated needs in the area of Math during ESY may not also require speech. If the student does demonstrate a need for speech during ESY, that student's needs may be lower than the regular school year needs. The student may benefit from group sessions rather than individual sessions.

## **V. GENERAL MISCONCEPTIONS REGARDING EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR**

An extended school year is:

1. not a mandated 12 month school program for all handicapped students,
2. not required just because a handicapped student could benefit from it,
3. not required in order that child care be available for handicapped students during the summer,
4. not required as a means of maximizing the educational opportunities for each handicapped student,
5. not necessarily a continuation of the instructional program provided during the regular school year,
6. not required to be provided all day, every day, nor each day during the week or month,
7. not for more mildly handicapped students (based on level of functioning), and
8. not necessarily a traditional teacher/classroom/child operation.

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