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QUICK REFERENCE

ESY

What is Extended School Year?

A quick reference for parents and caregivers in the IEP process

The basics

ESY services are special education services provided outside the regular school calendar, most often during the summer. They are written into your child's IEP and provided at no cost to your family. **ESY is not summer school.** It is an individualized, legally protected service under IDEA.

Who qualifies?

ESY eligibility is based on your child's individual needs and data, not their diagnosis or disability category. Criteria can vary by state. The IEP team considers:

- Regression and recoupment over breaks (see below)
- Whether your child is at a critical point in learning a new skill
- The nature of your child's disability and how breaks affect their progress

REGRESSION AND RECOUPMENT

Regression is how much skill your child loses over a long break. **Recoupment** is how long it takes to get it back, like a child who returns in September behind and needs weeks to catch up.

Your child doesn't have to lose another summer first. Predicted regression counts.

Key things to know

- [ ] Ask early. ESY should be discussed by the IEP team, ideally in the spring
- [ ] The decision must be documented in the IEP
- [ ] If ESY is denied, ask for the reason and the data behind it in writing
- [ ] You are a member of the IEP team and have a voice in this decision

Think your child may need ESY but not sure where to start?

Book a free 15-minute consultation at MyAccessAdvocacy.com

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