

Districts 101, 301, 302, 303, 304 and MVSEC
Extended School Year
ESY Criteria Guidelines

ESY is designed for students with significant disabilities for whom we have evidence that extra days of school are necessary in order for them to maintain their educational progress. Although it would be nice to offer this service for every student, it just is not intended for everyone. If a student qualifies for ESY, the expectation is that they maintain their gains. Learning new skills would be a benefit, but is not required. When you write your goals for ESY, please keep this in mind.

1. Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, in order for a student to be eligible for ESY, the student must meet the requirements listed on the ESY Eligibility Criteria.
2. The criteria has five areas to consider: regression, recoupment, self-sufficiency, degree of impairment, and complexity of disability. Each area is scored by marking a 1, 2, or 3, (1 as a low risk and 3 as a high risk). Staff are to use their best judgment, using readily available, classroom-based evidence when making these determinations. The scores are summed at the end of the process. A student with a score of 11-15 is eligible for ESY. The criteria also allows for professional judgment factors which can be applied for students who score in the borderline range.
3. The criteria is to be completed by the student's case manager and confirmed by the team members prior to the IEP meeting with parents.
4. For students who have related services, the case manager must consult with the provider to determine if ESY services are appropriate. Students must qualify for the full ESY programming to receive related services. Related services alone will not be available except in rare circumstances, approved by your administrator.
5. For students who have new IEPs, during the year, teams should consider if they have sufficient information over a break in order to make a decision about ESY.
 - a. For example, if a student has a first IEP in the fall, there would be Thanksgiving and Winter breaks to use to calculate regression and recoupment. If the student meets the criteria, the IEP could be amended to include ESY.
 - b. If a student has a first IEP in mid-winter, spring break would be the measure and the IEP could be amended to include ESY.
 - c. If a student has a first IEP after spring break, the student would not qualify for ESY, unless the student had very intensive needs that were identified on criteria 3, 4, and 5 of the ESY Eligibility Criteria.

6. For students who are turning 3 years of age in late spring or summer, the teams should use their professional judgment primarily on ESY Eligibility Criteria 3, 4 and 5, since no regression/recoupment data will likely be available. During this transition time, most students with significant disabilities qualify for programming, regardless of the time of year. It's not really a matter of ESY as such. In subsequent years, the parents should be informed that regression and recoupment will be a part of the consideration for ESY once the student is participating in the programming.
7. After the criteria form is completed, it may be filed in the student's special education file. It is not a part of the IEP paperwork distributed to parents.
8. The criteria is intended to be used as a guideline for the team's decision regarding ESY. Generally, it is not shared with parents, but the determination is to be recorded in the appropriate place on the IEP. In circumstances where there is a disagreement between the team and the parents, the criteria can be shared, so that the parents understand the rationale for the decision.
9. For some parents, if their child does not qualify for ESY, this process may take a couple of years. Please complete the form and share it with them. If they need to appeal the decision, the administration should have the criteria to understand the team's decision.
10. MVSEC does most of the ESY programming for the member districts, although some districts provide walk-in service or ECE. If recommending ESY through MVSEC, please follow recommended procedures, complete the appropriate forms and parent packets available on the MVSEC document library in Netchemia.