

School Board Workshop:

April 13, 2026

Subject:

Extended School Year 2026

Presenter:

**Amy Ernst, Director
Special Services**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Report – no action necessary

DESCRIPTION:

Extended School Year (ESY) services are individualized special education services provided beyond the traditional school year for students whose IEP teams determine that continued support is necessary to ensure access to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). ESY is a data-driven decision centered on maintaining meaningful educational progress.

Each year, IEP teams engage in a thoughtful review process to determine ESY eligibility. This includes ongoing collaboration with families and careful analysis of student performance data over time. The goal is to ensure that critical skills are not lost during extended school breaks in a way that would significantly impact a student's ability to access their education.

Eligibility Considerations

Students must currently receive special education services and demonstrate need in at least one of the following areas:

- **Regression and Recoupment:** Data shows a significant loss of skills during breaks in instruction, with a recovery period that exceeds the length of the break, indicating a risk to sustained progress.
- **Maintenance of Critical Skills:** The student requires continued services to maintain essential functional or foundational skills necessary for personal independence and access to learning (e.g., communication, behavior regulation, self-care, or foundational academics).
- **Individualized/Unique Needs:** The IEP team determines that, due to the student's unique circumstances, ESY services are required to ensure the provision of FAPE. This allows teams to consider factors such as emerging skills, rate of progress, or other individualized considerations.

Program Design and Delivery Lens

ESY services are intentionally designed to be targeted and efficient, focusing on priority IEP goals rather than replicating the full school-year program. Services may vary in frequency, duration, and setting depending on student need.

Ongoing Review and Planning

IEP teams discuss ESY eligibility throughout the year to avoid last-minute decision-making and to ensure families are engaged as partners in the process. As part of our planning cycle, we are currently:

- Finalizing student eligibility based on team determinations and supporting data
- Identifying staffing needs aligned to student service requirements
- Reviewing program structures to ensure alignment with student needs

The figures below represent the current number of students identified for ESY services, along with the number of staff who have expressed interest in supporting the program.

Number of students

141 total students

Early Childhood

31 total students

K-12th grade

99 total students

PRIDE

11 total students

Number of staff

21 certified staff applications

22 non-certified staff applications

Locations:

NES, PES, BCMS, PRIDE

Dates:

June 15, 16, 17, 18

June 22, 23, 24, 25

June 29, 30, July 1, 2

July 6, 7, 8, 9

ATTACHMENT: None