WHAT IS EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY)?
An overview for Ann Arbor Public Schools families with students on IEPs

Typical AAPS ESY Timeline (AKA why you should talk to your teams ASAP!):

- Throughout school year – return from April break: ongoing ESY data collection
- ***Mid-April: Deadline for IEP teams to submit initial ESY requests to SISS***
- Mid-May: Deadline for IEP teams to submit final paperwork & bus requests
- Late May/Early June: Parent get letters with dates, orientation, bus, etc. info
- Early July-Early August: ESY offered Mon-Thurs ams at Preschool & K-12 locations


“Special education also includes “extended school year” (ESY) services which are provided “beyond the normal school year of the public agency.” 34 CFR 300.106(b). Extended school year services must be provided to individual students who need them to receive a free appropriate public education. For example, if a student regresses each summer and does not recoup his skills within a reasonable time, or if he needs supports to ensure development of an emerging skill, extended school year services may be necessary to ensure an appropriate education. The Michigan Rules currently provide extended school year services automatically to students in certain classes, such as classes for students with severe cognitive impairment or severe multiple impairments. R 340.1738; R 340.1748. School districts cannot unilaterally limit the type, amount or duration of extended school year services. 34 CFR 300.106(a)(3).”

From “Special Education Parent Handbook” (Ann Arbor Public Schools, June 2012)

“Extended School Year (ESY) services are provided to a student beyond the traditional school calendar at no cost to the parent. ESY services must be considered by making a data-based recommendation in one or more of the following criterion:

- Regression and recoupment
- Nature and severity of the disability
- Critical stage or area of learning

Regression refers to the inability of the student to maintain an acquired skill in an identified goal area of concern when special education instruction or related services in a IEP goal area are interrupted. Recoupment is the student’s capacity to recover those regressed skills to a level demonstrated prior to the break in instruction. ESY services are provided if the IEP team determines that the services are necessary for the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).”
The need for ESY services must be considered for each student eligible for special education and should be discussed at every IEP meeting. Though the need for such services must be considered, ESY service provision is the exception, not the rule. A student may be found eligible for ESY services by an LEA or Public School Academy (PSA) due to 1) a serious potential for regression of skills beyond a reasonable period of recoupment, 2) the nature of the severity of the disability, or 3) be at a critical stage or area of learning. ESY services are considered only on an individual-need basis, to be determined by the IEPT. Determination of need for ESY services is based upon the IEPT review of the student’s progress toward goals, documentation/observation of regression and recoupment during school break periods, and/or professional opinion. If the level of regression (loss of skills) and the length of recoupment (time it takes to re-learn lost skills) exceeds that of the general student population, then ESY services may be needed. Reasonable amount of time for recoupment is considered to be about 7 to 9 weeks.

See Also:

Extended School Year Webinar and Powerpoint (Michigan Alliance for Families, 2014): http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/webinar/

Extended School Year Services (Wrightslaw, 2011): http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/esy.index.htm