

FCPS Summer Services for Students with Disabilities 2008

Due to budget restrictions for FY2009, summer school is no longer being offered as it was in the past. Only extended school year (ESY) services required to ensure that the student will not significantly jeopardize gains made during the 180-day school year will be provided in summer 2008. Students who are not eligible for ESY services may qualify for intervention programs being offered at their base school, and parents should contact the school principal to determine if these services are appropriate.

Historically, many students have received ESY services through summer school courses, although additional options have always been available. The redesign of summer services has enabled the Office of Special Education to develop a plan for intensive intervention with increased flexibility to meet child-specific ESY goals. Research has shown that effective summer interventions are flexible enough to address child-specific needs and vary according to types of skills being addressed. Meta-analysis of multiple research studies reveals the following:

- Skills which require practice are most effectively maintained through short (15-20 minute), frequent (daily) practice sessions, and this is often best (and most flexibly accomplished) using a parent or child-care provider implemented home program
- Skills which require direct instruction are best maintained and improved when intensive intervention is provided with the following characteristics:
 - Duration
 - Elementary- most effective interventions ranged from 44-74 hrs
 - Secondary – most effective interventions ranged from 60-120 hrs
 - Significantly shorter and longer programs were less effective
 - Instruction individualized to meet student's needs is more effective than set courses
 - Inclusion of a service learning component (student contribution to the school or larger community) enhances benefits
 - Parent communication and involvement improves outcome
- A small group of children required some additional or alternative programming for skills to be maintained

Based on this research, three models of ESY service delivery were developed for consideration by individual education program (IEP) teams when determining what services are appropriate to ensure that progress during the 180-day school year would not be significantly jeopardized.

Consultative Services

Consultative services address the needs of students who require practice to maintain critical skills, but do not require direct instruction. The child's school year teacher provides practice activities, and if needed, practice materials for the parent or caretaker to use with the child during the summer. Teacher-consultants contact the parent at the beginning of the summer, and as frequently as designated on the IEP, to determine that all needed materials are available, and questions answered. These teacher-consultants are also available via phone or email to address any questions which may arise as the parent or caretaker implements the activities.

Summer Learning Community-Intensive Class-based Intervention (60 hour preschool and elementary, 108 hour Middle School, 132 hour HS)

Based on research, FCPS intensive intervention services will include the following components

- ESY teachers will review ESY goals and annual IEP and create individualized schedule of services for each student
- All services will be available at every ESY site to increase flexibility in programming
- Total intervention time aligns with research and varies by grade level: 60 hours preschool and elementary; 108 hours middle school, 132 hours high school
- Parent communication will include information about student activities for follow up and practice at home
- All students will participate in at least one service learning activity, individualized to student abilities and interests

Each child participates in one or more learning labs, determined by their ESY goals and needs identified on the annual IEP. Activities focus on critical skills which must be maintained to ensure that gains made during the 180-day school year will not be jeopardized. Needs addressed may include reading and writing, math, communication, social skills, skills for independence, daily living and employment, and/or study skills. All students also participate in a service learning experience, which is individualized to the child's ability and interests. Instruction addresses a continuum of learning styles and skill levels. Specialized methodology for students receiving enhanced autism or deaf/hard of hearing services is provided.

Additional or Alternative services

A small number of students whose specific ESY goals require even more intensive intervention to ensure the student will be able to benefit from services during the regular 180-day school year may require additional or alternative services. IEP teams considering this possibility must include a Pyramid Resource Specialist to ensure that the team can discuss a full range of service delivery options.

Service Providers

Current special education teachers will be offered extended contracts (208 or 218-day) to provide ESY services under each of the three models. In addition, hourly contracts will be offered as needed, based on staffing requirements once ESY IEPs are completed.

No Fee ESY Services

ESY services are provided only to students whose IEP team has determined that such services are **required** to ensure that the student will not significantly jeopardize gains made during the 180-day school year. All ESY services and transportation are provided free of charge as a part of the student's access to a free, appropriate public education (FAPE), in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004.

Fee-based High School Services

To enable high school students with disabilities to access the same options provided to students without disabilities, the following content courses will be offered in a special education setting at Lake Braddock:

- Three-week SOL remediation for 8th grade reading and math SOL retakes
- Three-week preparation for the WorkKeys Assessment to meet literacy and numeracy requirements for a modified standard diploma
- Algebra 1
- World History and Geography 1
- Biology
- English 9-12
- US Government

In addition, resource services will be available on a consultation basis for students enrolling in general education high school courses at any of the four high school summer sites to ensure appropriate classroom and testing accommodations are in place.

Students enrolled in any of the courses in this section will pay the \$700 fee associated with these courses, unless they qualify for ESY or a reduced fee based on family income.