

COVID-19 School Closure Q&A: Summer Extended School Year (ESY) Services for Students with Disabilities

- Schools will be providing ESY (summer services and programs) this year but due to COVID-19, ESY services will look different.
- All students with ESY in their IEPs should receive services. Most students will continue to receive ESY services remotely at least part of time. Only high need students will receive in-person services and these services will be limited.
- Schools should do everything they can to provide as many ESY services this summer as possible, including in-person services for high-need students, while following specific health and safety precautions.
- High need students are:
 - Students with significant disabilities who have had substantial regression with remote learning;
 - Students who have multiple services in their IEP during the summer, such as applied behavior analysis; speech, occupational, and/or physical therapies; and academic instruction;
 - Students who will need more time to learn new health and safety procedures to keep themselves and others safe when schools re-open in the fall.
- In-person services may be provided at school or in the home.
 - In-person services could include individual or small group instructions or therapies.
 - Group sizes in school must be no more than 10 students, with a maximum of 12 people including staff. Rooms must be large enough to include at least 6 feet of distance between all students and staff.
 - All staff and students must wear face coverings or masks at all times, except for those who are unable due to age, medical condition, disability impact, or other health or safety considerations.
- Before in-person ESY can take place, schools must make sure that all COVID-19 safety requirements have been completed. Safety requirements are:
 - Hire ESY staff
 - Purchase protective equipment
 - Put in place new COVID-19 health and safety procedures
 - Train necessary staff on new safety requirements and procedures
- School must continue to provide services to high-need students remotely until schools have met the safety requirements
- Parents must receive written notice describing how ESY programs will be provided, if different than described in the student's IEP.

**If you have questions about ESY for your child:
Contact MAC's Helpline: 617-357-8431 or
massadvocates.org/helpline**