



The Alaska Reads Act



Extended School Year (ESY) & Summer Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) Guidance

An extended school year is when educational services extend beyond the average school year. It is written into law in a section of IDEA. Special education services are designed to support a child's individual needs for their social and academic function during a typical school day. An extended school year allows a child to maintain the same educational standards as when school is in session. This helps the child progress past certain obstacles and prevents them from relearning the information once school starts again. ESY services are not the same as summer school or out of school summer intervention for 3rd to 4th grade- but if a student qualifies for ESY, it can apply as the 20-hour requirement of the Alaska Reads Act.

These services are:

- Specialized
- Explicit, systematic, and evidence-based
- Related Services
- Included in the students IEP

Extended school year services are not the same as summer school or educational enrichment programs offered through the school system. Summer school programs are to remediate all children not meeting state academic criteria at the end of the school year. This includes typical children and special needs children.

Though mainly used for summer breaks, this special education program can also be provided during other extended breaks. ESY can occur outside of the days of a school year or the hours of a school day and can include shorter school breaks, such as spring or winter break.