

5-20-2020
Parent Communication

To Richland School District Parents of Students with Disabilities:

Our families and school communities are experiencing unprecedented changes as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI's) guidance is grounded in compassion, communication, and common sense rather than the traditional compliance measures our educational community is more familiar with.

Staff will continue to prioritize their work in the following targeted areas:

- 1. Health and safety of students, staff, and communities*
- 2. Considerations for supporting educational opportunities during school closures*
- 3. Maintain timelines for re-evaluations and annual IEPs*

It is our desire to update you with communication in these areas of recently asked questions:

What is the difference between compensatory services and extended school year (ESY)? *This question and answer are quoted directly from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) website.*

Compensatory services are to enable the student to make progress, ESY services are for maintaining skills. Compensatory services are determined after normal school operations resume and are determined on a case-by-case basis. Districts should examine the effect of the closure on the student's progress toward their IEP goals. ESY is required if the student needs it as a result of regression and recoupment time, or if they are at a critical stage in learning, based on documented evidence. The need for ESY should be examined on a case-by-case basis for each student, as already required in IDEA. Districts should consider how to address current ESY needs of students whose IEP teams have already identified the need in their IEPs and prepare to provide needed ESY services after the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Will the district consider the need for compensatory education and/or Extended School Year (ESY) services upon returning to school after the closure?

Yes.

ESY is considered annually at the time of the annual IEP. For those students whose team has already determined ESY eligibility, RSD will be providing ESY services this summer. For those students whose team identified they did not require ESY, IEP teams can reconsider that during the 2020-2021 IEP meeting for the summer of 2021.

IEP teams will consider the need for any compensatory services due to the impact of COVID-19 once school services have resumed as normal.

Will RSD have Extended School Year (ESY) during the summer of the 19-20 school year?

Yes. Case managers should currently be reaching out to teams of students that are eligible for ESY. This eligibility is not based on the Covid-19 closure. The purpose of ESY is the maintenance of the student's learning skills or behavior, not the teaching of new skills or behaviors.

Will ESY be in person or virtual?

ESY will be conducted virtually this year to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

When will ESY be conducted?

ESY is scheduled July 13th - August 7th. Services will be provided Monday - Thursday each week.

What is the start and end time for each day during ESY?

We will follow the suggested minutes provided by OSPI that is reasonable for a student to be engaged in learning each day. It will be up to each team to determine if the suggested minutes, which are the suggested maximum, need to be adjusted to a lesser time each day.

OSPI suggests the following (max. minutes per day):

- PreK: 30 Minutes per day
- Kinder-1st: 45 Minutes per day
- 2nd-3rd: 60 Minutes per day
- 4th-5th: 90 Minutes per day
- 6th-8th: 20 minutes per class (2.5 hours maximum per day)

- 9th-12th: 30 minutes per class (3 hours maximum per day)

We will continue to communicate with parents as we receive new guidance and information. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we share this new experience. While responses may be delayed during the closure, we are monitoring emails and voicemails and welcome your questions. You can reach the special education office at 509-967-6050.