

What is ESY?

Extended School Year (ESY) services are special education and related services provided to eligible students with Individual Education Programs (IEPs) beyond the regular school calendar. These services help prevent regression in skill areas that can occur during breaks in the educational schedule.

By offering ESY during the summer, Pittsburgh Public Schools ensures that students in grades K-12, as well as eligible students up to age 21, continue to make progress in their educational journey.

All ESY sites are staffed with PPS special education certified teachers and support staff, with on-site supervision provided by the Program for Students with Exceptionalities (PSE).

Additionally, breakfast and lunch are served at all locations, ensuring that students have a well-rounded and supportive experiences.

City Connections

In addition to the K-12 programming, PPS offers an innovative service delivery model for students with disabilities aged 18-21 currently enrolled in **CITY Connections** program. This ESY program provides students with a community-based, transition-focused learning and working environment, preparing them for life after school. The CITY Connections ESY sites are located in apartment and college campus settings, allowing students to engage in real-world activities and gain valuable work experience in the community. The focus of the program is on transition outcomes, including post-secondary education and training, employment, and independent community living, ensuring students are well-prepared for their future.

Center-Based Programs

Pioneer and Conroy's ESY programs both offer a fun-filled, therapeutic, and educational experience for students, with a strong emphasis on both academic and therapy goals. Pioneer students spend time daily in the expansive outdoor Sensory Garden, engaging in activities like biking, walking, swinging, picnics, and participating in water and sports activities. At Conroy, the summer is filled with theme-based activities that focus on IEP goals while incorporating enriching experiences like band performances, magic shows, student karaoke, and friendly competitions.

The Bridges ESY program emphasizes the development of social and emotional skills, including self-regulation, relationship-building, and positive behavior supports within a structured environment. Students engage in targeted instruction to maintain and reinforce skills in literacy and math, aligned to their IEP goals. Additionally, the program incorporates community-based opportunities, allowing students to practice functional life skills, social interaction, and independence in real-world settings..

PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES



Students first
Always, in all ways.

The logo features the text "Students first" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, with "first" in a smaller font size. Below it is the tagline "Always, in all ways." in a blue, italicized, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a blue graduation cap icon.

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR 2026

July 6 - July 24, 2026

Monday-Friday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

K-5 Programming:
Pittsburgh Classical Academy

6-12 Programming:
Pittsburgh Carmalt

Conroy:
Allegheny Traditional Academy

Pioneer:
Pioneer Education Center

Bridges:
Pittsburgh King



Elementary Programs

The Extended School Year (ESY) program offers a welcoming and supportive environment for elementary students, with an ADA-accessible, air-conditioned site and an outdoor play area. The program focuses on identified IEP goals, including reading, math, communication, and socialization skills, with upper elementary grades benefiting from weekly community-based instruction. Families will receive regular updates on student progress. Two tiers of programming are available: the **Learning Support Program**, which emphasizes intensive reading and math instruction, and the **Regional Program**, which also targets academics while placing a special emphasis on social skills, executive functioning, and global skill development. This year, the ESY program has expanded its community partnerships by inviting local organizations to visit and offer a variety of enriching activities for the students, ensuring a diverse and engaging summer experience.

Secondary

The focus of the Extended School Year (ESY) program for students in the secondary program will be on building essential life skills for independence.

Two Tiers of programming will be offered.

The **Learning Support** program will provide focused, intensive instruction in reading and math, while also integrating valuable community partnerships to help students explore occupational interests and essential life skills. This combination of academic support and real-world experiences will ensure that students not only strengthen their foundational skills but also gain practical knowledge for future independence and success in the community.



Programs

The **Regional Program** will provide lessons on accessing public transportation, exploring local community service sites, and completing practical tasks like grocery shopping. Community-Based Vocational Education will allow students to pursue their occupational interests while gaining hands-on training in real-life work environments. Daily Living Skills, such as cooking, cleaning, laundry, and personal care, will be emphasized to help students achieve greater independence. Additionally, reading skills will be integrated into daily activities, including following recipes, reading bus schedules, and identifying signs. Students will also work on developing resumes, completing interest surveys, and engaging with weekly guest speakers from organizations like OVR and independent community living programs to enhance their transition to adulthood.