

To: School Committee
Dr. Parry Graham, Superintendent

From: Lisa Berard, Administrator for Student Services
Scott Dixson, Extended School Year Coordinator, Special Educator

RE: Extended School Year Program PK-8, 2023
Date: September 1, 2023

The purpose of this report is to provide a description of special education extended year programming for preschool through grade 8.

Extended School Year Programming Definition:

Extended School Year Programming and Services (ESY) are required under state and federal statutes to ensure provision of summer services for special education students who are at risk of **substantial regression** of skills. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) 2004, "ESY must be available if the IEP Team determines, on an individual basis, that extended year services are necessary to provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)." Massachusetts state law 603 CMR 28.05 (4) states, "An extended year program may be identified if the student has demonstrated or is likely to demonstrate substantial regression in his or her learning skills and/or substantial difficulty in relearning such skills if an extended program is not provided".

Eligibility for ESY:

Students are identified individually within the Team Meeting process and extended year services are reflected within the Individualized Education Program (IEP) based upon consideration of the following:

- Regression of skills is substantial following a break in service
- Recouping of skills due to the break would take longer than what is typical (after review/reteach)
- Instruction is required in the area in which regression would occur
- Degree of disability/impairment is considered
- Rate of learning and progress is a factor impacting decision making
- Regression and difficulty recouping after short breaks throughout the school year is noted
- Regression of skills may include social skills, emotional support, mobility, communication, academics, vocational skills, assistive technology, and adaptive living skills

- The unique nature of any specially designed instruction or related services needed due to the disability of the student

Lincoln Public Schools ESY Programming:

During the summer of 2023, ESY programming for special education students took place from July 10th to August 10th.

The ESY Program provided a range of supports and services to meet the individual needs of students. These services are determined through the IEP Team process and are individually calculated. ESY Program services took place on both the Hanscom and Lincoln campuses with all of the preschool programs located at the Lincoln Preschool on the Lincoln Campus. Communication with parents began with TEAM meetings and continued throughout the late spring and into the ESY program.

In the 2023 ESY program, all services and programming were provided in person with students and staff. The students and the staff did a wonderful job over the summer working on academic and social-emotional learning. Transportation again proved to be an unanticipated challenge, and two ESY employees, Carolyn Morrissey and Bronson Buhler, stepped into the additional role of driving the ESY vans.

In the spring of 2016, Scott Dixon was initially appointed as the ESY Coordinator and has been reappointed for the ESY Programs since that time. Scott has continued to be essential to the organization of programming and scheduling services for students. The consistency of having Scott in this role has provided leadership and clarity for all staff, parents and students. In his role, Scott ensures appropriate staffing is in place to meet the needs of the students. Scott also coordinates with principals to ensure building and custodial needs are addressed for the duration of the ESY program. In addition to these administrative duties, Scott provides staff training and outreach and consistently communicates with parents. His partnership with the Lincoln Recreation Camp is essential to student participation, accessibility, and success. Scott continues to be actively involved with supporting the Foundations, STEP, and STARR programs as well as collaborating and supporting all of the programs through his administrative presence and hands-on approach.

As the 2022-2023 school year came to a close and the timing for extended school year programming arrived, it proved challenging to hire nurses to work during the Extended School Year programming. One of the Lincoln Public School Assistant Nurses, Alana McLaughlin, was able to work for four weeks during extended school year programming. The district also used an agency nurses for the entirety of the ESY program to ensure a Registered Nurse was on site daily, and, strong continuity of care was provided.

This year, given our understanding of student's social and emotional needs, we identified the need for a school based clinician to provide student support and services throughout the extended school year. Therefore, we hired a school counselor to work part-time with our students. Erin Law, who works for Lincoln Public Schools as a transition specialist/counselor, did therapeutic check-ins with students three days per week. Additionally, educators who

worked throughout Extended School Year programming were provided consultation on student's social, emotional or behavioral related needs. Erin provided social and emotional support in the Preschool, Foundations, STARR, STEP, and the Recreation Camp programs. Erin's role was essential to many student's being able to fully access their ESY programming.

ESY Program Descriptions

Preschool Instruction:

The preschool ESY program provides an extension of the school year program. Each classroom works to address student goals and benchmarks as outlined in the IEP. Children ages 2.9 through 5 years of age are provided instruction with a focus on addressing individual needs in the areas of motor, social, language, emotional, pre-readiness and independence. Children are provided opportunities to build confidence and skills through structured classroom activities. The focus of the program is to prevent substantial regression of skills.

Foundations Extended School Year Program:

The Foundations Program is a district-wide program for students who require specialized social and emotional instruction and therapeutic support in order to make effective progress with their education. The Foundations Program is integrated into every aspect of the Lincoln School community while providing students a separate supportive educational environment they can access as needed throughout their school day. Students receiving support from the Foundations Program participate in targeted social and emotional intervention, social skill development, executive functioning support and academic instruction embedded throughout the comprehensive programming. The Foundations team works closely with general education teachers, parents, and students, and related service providers to deliver flexible staffing supports and create a low staff to student ratio throughout the student's day as needed. The program has flexibility to decrease the amount of student support, when appropriate, in order to promote generalization of skills and foster independence. The team communicates with community and home based providers and families to effectively collaborate around the student's educational needs. The focus of the Foundations ESY program is to prevent substantial regression of the skills developed during the school year.

Summer Transition Extension Program (STEP)

STEP is a small group, extended school year program. Last year the age grouping was for rising k-2 students. This year the grade levels served were rising from grade 1 to grade 3. The focus of the STEP program is to provide a comprehensive summer experience for identified students to address social and academic needs. All related services such as Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language therapy were also provided when appropriate. This program addresses regression of skills identified by the student's Special Education Team, as well as to support students with grade level transition skills. Students are identified and recommended for this program through the TEAM meeting process.

Strategic, Targeted, Academic, Resource (STARR)

STARR is a small group, extended school year program. The program provides services to our rising 4th through 8th grade students. The focus of the STARR program is to provide focused instruction in the areas of math, ELA, and related subjects. Social skills and social needs were also addressed across the program day. All related services such as Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language therapy were also provided when appropriate. This program is designed to address regression of skills identified by the student's Special Education Team, as well as to support students with grade-level transition skills. Students are identified and recommended for this program through the TEAM meeting process.

Specially Designed Academic Instruction:

Academic Instruction is provided through tutoring, focusing on preventing substantial regression in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. Instruction is provided within a 1:1 or small group setting. The focus of the academic tutoring virtual live sessions is to address IEP goals and benchmarks identified to be at risk of regression over the summer break.

Related Services:

Related services provided during ESY may include occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech and language therapy

Enrollment of Students in ESY

Program	Hanscom Students	Lincoln Students	Total
Preschool	XX	XX	28 6 in Rec camp 22 in 2 classrooms
Academic Instruction	12	16	28
Recreation Camp	5	5	10
Foundations program	2	3	5
STEP program	0	5	5
STARR program	1	2	3

ESY Staffing:

Scott Dixon, ESY Coordinator

Alana McLaughlin, ESY Assistant Nurse

Jessica Killian, ESY Teacher

Kat Finnegan, ESY Teacher

Christina Clark, ESY Teacher

Amy Gualtieri, STEP program teacher

Mary Howard, STARR program teacher

Carolyn Morrissey, Foundations co-teacher

Nicholas Reinhardt, Foundations co-teacher

Jessica Wiggins, Speech and Language Therapist

Ally Kelly, Occupational Therapist

Laura Jefferies, Physical Therapist

Erin Law, Counselor

Dayna Brown, Preschool Teacher (Lead)

Maureen Cullen, Preschool Teacher (Lead)

Michelle Gosselin, Preschool Teacher

Ellena Noble, Preschool Tutor

Catherine Movessian, Preschool Tutor

Stephanie Caro, Preschool Tutor

Erin Nickerson, Preschool Tutor

Amanda Boudreau, Preschool Tutor

Samantha Oldham, Preschool Tutor

Max Bowen, Preschool Tutor

Kristina Kuchel, Preschool Recreation Camp Tutor

Krystal Wood, Preschool Recreation Camp Tutor

Marianne Martinkus, STARR program Tutor

Bronson Buhler, STEP program Tutor

Melissa Buhler, Recreation Camp Tutor

Kathy Pellegrino, Recreation Camp Tutor

Chelsea Billings, Recreation Camp Tutor

Carolyn Morrissey, ESY Van Driver

Bronson Buhler, ESY Van Driver

Stacey Clarkin, ESY substitute

Charlotte Fitzgerald, ESY substitute

