



## Update on Extended School Year May 10, 2011 Frequently Asked Questions

This document contains answers to many of the questions that have been asked about Extended School Year for special education students in your charter school. If you have additional questions or need more information, please send them to Alice Parker at [alice@edstrategies.net](mailto:alice@edstrategies.net). As more information becomes available, it will be distributed to you. Please share this information with appropriate staff at your school site, including special education teachers.

### Funding for Extended School Year (ESY)

1. **Question:** Will there be a fee for enrolling our students in ESY programs?

**Answer:** There are no costs to parents or students to participate in ESY programs. This year, the expenses for ESY will be paid for with ARRA funding and coordinated through Cross & Jofthus. The charter school where the student attends during the regular school year will not have any fee charged to them for the student who attends ESY.

2. **Question:** If we apply to or agree to run an ESY program for charter school students at our site, can you explain the reimbursement rates? Where does that funding come from? What are the caps? What does the funding pay for (e.g., teaching staff, administrative staff, custodial services, classroom supplies, food services)?

**Answer:** The teacher and instructional assistant salaries, supplies, duplicating, and other approved expenses for ESY will be paid for with ARRA funding and coordinated by Cross & Jofthus. A calculation will be made based on ARRA grant funding and potential district reimbursement for claiming ESY attendance for facilities and administrative reimbursement.

3. **Question:** If a student is receiving ESY, how will they get to the ESY site? Will transportation be provided or required?

**Answer:** Parents will be reimbursed for providing transportation if the IEP team determines that transportation is needed. Some students will be able to take public transportation and costs will be reimbursed.

4. **Question:** If the student attends ESY this summer, how does the school meet the need for ESY next year, after the ARRA funds are expended?

**Answer:** ESY is required to be offered to eligible students each year regardless of funding. In future years each charter school will use special education income from the state to support ESY participation.

### **Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and ESY**

5. **Question:** Can ESY be offered for one year only in an IEP? What if parents continue to request ESY?

**Answer:** Yes, ESY can be offered for one year only. In fact, since an IEP is good for only one year, ESY is offered only for the year covered by the IEP. The student needs to be determined eligible for ESY by his/her IEP team on an annual basis.

6. **Question:** Must ESY be written in a student's IEP? How can a student be referred to ESY programs?

**Answer:** Yes, for a student to attend ESY, the student's IEP team must agree that the student is eligible for ESY. Information on determining eligibility for ESY services and the process to have ESY considered by the student's IEP team will be sent to you and to special education teachers. This information will include how to inform the receiving site that your school has students who are eligible to participate in ESY and who the students are.

### **Location of Schools for ESY Classes**

7. **Question:** Once identified, will a list of ESY sites for charter school students be circulated among charter operators?

**Answer:** Yes. Cross & Joftus project staff are currently working with interested charter schools and others to identify the geographic clusters of students potentially eligible for ESY and the school sites for services. Information on the sites and which schools would send students to each site will be distributed to all charter school principals and to special education teachers.

8. **Question:** If a charter school applies to and agrees to operate an ESY program at the school site, is there a ballpark number of classrooms/students we would be expected to enroll?

**Answer:** Cross & Joftus project staff are still in the process of identifying the students in the charter schools who are eligible for ESY. Early analysis suggests

that a school should house 2 to 3 classrooms with 20 to 38 students total. The actual number of classrooms and students at this site will depend on where the students are located.