

To: School Committee
Dr. Parry Graham, Superintendent

From: Dr. Lisa Berard, Director of Student Services
Mr. Scott Dixon, Assistant Principal Hanscom and Extended School Year Coordinator
Ms. Jessie Wiggins, Extended School Year Assistant Coordinator

RE: Extended School Year Programs SY 2024-2025

Date: August 29, 2025

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 eligible. 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 2025, ESY programming for special education students took place from July 7th to August 7th.

The ESY Program provided a range of supports and services to meet the individual needs of students. The services delivered to each student are determined through the IEP Team process and are individually calculated. ESY Program services took place on both the Hanscom and Lincoln campuses.

Communication with parents and guardians about ESY eligibility and programming began with TEAM meetings and continued throughout the late spring all the way until the ESY programming began in July.

In the 2025 ESY program, all services and programming were provided in person with students, faculty and staff. The majority of these services were provided at the Lincoln School campus though some tutoring services were provided at the Hanscom School campus with all of the preschool programs located at the Lincoln Preschool on the Lincoln Campus. The faculty and staff did a wonderful job over this summer working on addressing educationally related skills for all eligible students. Transportation was provided for those students with identified disabilities which require specialized transportation in their IEPs.

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. In the summer of 2023, Scott was appointed as one of the Assistant Principals of the Hanscom School and the ESY Coordinator's responsibilities were made part of his contractual duties. He continued in that role for the 2024-2025 school year. Scott remained 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 ensured appropriate staffing was 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 continued 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. It should be noted that Scott Dixon retired in August 2025. To prepare for his retirement and ensure that the Extended School Year programming continues to run smoothly, we hired an Assistant Extended School Year Coordinator for the 2024-2025 School Year. Jessie Wiggins took on this role and was a great match to partner with Scott this summer. Jessie shadowed Scott throughout the school year and the summer to learn the role and support all aspects of ESY programming and program development. As the summer progressed, Scott transitioned the majority of responsibilities to Jessie and supported her to take the lead in running the Extended School Year Program. This transition was highly successful and Jessie Wiggins has expressed interest in stepping into the Extended School Year Coordinator role going forward. It is anticipated that the transition to a new ESY Coordinator will be successful and planning for the 2025-2026 Extended School Year will begin in the near future.

As previously noted, as each school year comes to a close and the timing for extended school year programming arrives, it proves consistently challenging to hire nurses to work during the Extended School Year programming. Unfortunately, the long term solution for Extended School Year nursing needs that had previously been planned for was not able to be implemented due to staff resignations and hiring. For this reason, the district returned to a former model of hiring an Assistant Nurse to fill the role this year. Alana McLaughlin (Assistant Nurse at the Lincoln School) filled the role this year and Kimberly Goldmacher (Lincoln School Nurse) agreed to support the role as needed. Jessica McNeil (Hanscom School Nurse) also agreed to provide coverage if a substitute was ever needed. This team approach to coverage for the Extended School Year was a model that proved to be very successful and we faced no challenges with nursing coverage. Additionally, we had a high level of continuity of care from the school year to summer services given Alana had worked in supporting both Lincoln and Hanscom Schools throughout the school year. The success of this approach was visible to students, families, faculty and staff and Alana ensured that each aspect of nursing was fully taken care of throughout the course of the Extended School Year.

Over the past two years, 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 with our students. Erin Law, who works for Lincoln Public Schools as a transition specialist at Hanscom School, provided counseling and therapeutic check-ins with students for the full extended school year program. 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 to all students in K-8 that it was required for. Erin's role was essential to many students 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. Students are identified and recommended for this program through the TEAM meeting process.

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 and to address the significant disability related needs of students. Students are identified and recommended for this program through the TEAM meeting process.

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. Students are identified and recommended for this program through the TEAM meeting process.

Related Services:

Related services provided during ESY may include occupational therapy, physical therapy, counseling, and speech and language therapy. Students are identified and recommended for this program through the TEAM meeting process.

Enrollment of Students in ESY

Program	Hanscom Students	Lincoln Students	Total
Preschool	23	11	34 29 in 3 classrooms 5 related services only
Academic Instruction	16	11	27
Recreation Camp	5	3	8
Foundations program	6	7	13
STEP program	4	3	7
STARR program	4	7	11

ESY Staffing:

Lisa Berard, Director of Student Services

Scott Dixon, ESY Coordinator

Jessie Wiggins, ESY Assistant Coordinator

Alana McLaughlin, ESY Nurse
Kimberly Goldmacher, OnCall Nurse for ESY Nurse

Asya Shestopal, ESY Teacher
Kat Ahern, ESY Teacher
Yvonne Pope, ESY Teacher
Christina Clark, ESY Teacher

Amy Gualtieri, STEP program teacher
Jen O'Sullivan, STARR program co-teacher
Caroline Curry, STARR program co-teacher
Charlotte Fitzgerald, Foundations teacher

Jessica Wiggins, Speech and Language Therapist
Ally Kelly, Occupational Therapist
Lisa Cloutier, Physical Therapist
Erin Law, Counselor
Jessica Killian, BCBA

Maureen Cullen, Preschool Teacher
Allison Reagan, Preschool Teacher
Bri Lawler, Preschool Teacher

Cintia Cardoso, Preschool Tutor
Kailey Cullen, Preschool Tutor
Stephanie Caro, Preschool Tutor
Laura Johnson-Shedd, Preschool Tutor
Kyoko Feeney, Preschool Tutor
Max Bowen, Preschool Tutor
Dayna Brown, Preschool Tutor

Sasha Kilfoyle, Preschool Support Staff
Catherine Oppenheim, Preschool Support Staff

Gina (Nay) Richey, STARR program Tutor
Ingride Francoeur, STEP program Tutor

Caroline Senkal, Foundations program Tutor
Elizabeth Soto, Foundations program Tutor
Ben Dixon, Foundations program Tutor
Meaghan Halloran, Foundations program Tutor

Melissa Buhler, Recreation Camp Tutor
Kathy Pellegrino, Recreation Camp Tutor
Boston Buhler, Recreation Camp Tutor
Alyson Haley, Recreation Camp Tutor

Stacey Clarkin, ESY substitute

Wilma Barnes, ESY substitute
Diane McKenzie, ESY substitute
Katharine Macy, ESY substitute
Dayna Brown, ESY substitute
Jessica McNeil, substitute Nurse