



LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Mary Emmons
Administrator for Student Services

To: School Committee
Dr. Rebecca McFall, Superintendent

From: Mary Emmons, Administrator for Student Services
Scott Dixson, Extended School Year Coordinator, Special Educator

RE: Extended School Year Program PK-8, 2021
Date: August 31, 2021

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 supports, mobility, communication, academics, vocational skills, assistive technology and adaptive living skills

Lincoln Public Schools ESY Programming:

During the summer of 2021, ESY programming for special education students took place from July 12th to August 12th . The ESY Program was fully in person, with the exception of three students who accessed a remote learning program for ESY.

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 Hartwell Building on the Lincoln Campus.. Communication with parents began with TEAM meetings and continued throughout the late spring and into the ESY program.

During the 2020 ESY program, all services were provided remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions. In the 2021 ESY program, all services and programming were provided in person with students and staff wearing masks when indoors. The students and the staff did a wonderful job over the summer working on academics and social-emotional learning. Due to our need to move all preschool students to the Hanscom Campus, we provided transportation and want to acknowledge and give a special thanks to Kevin Finnerty, our bus driver.

In the spring of 2016, Scott Dixson 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 STEP and STARR programs as well as collaborating and supporting all of the programs through his administrative presence and hands-on approach.

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.

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 PK to grade 2. 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 (STAR)

STARR is a small group, extended school year program. The age grouping was for rising 5th,6th and 7th grade students. This year the grade levels served were grade 5 and grade 6. 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 virtual session. 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	13	6	19
Academic Instruction	9	13	22
Social Skills (formerly Rec.Camp)	1	5	6
STEP program	2	2	4
STARR program	0	4	4

ESY Staffing:

Scott Dixson, ESY Coordinator

Alexus Johnson, ESY Nurse

Kevin Finnerty, PK Bus Driver

Asya Shestopal, ESY Teacher
Brianna Lawler, ESY STARR Teacher
Christina Clark, ESY Teacher
Rachel Goldner, ESY Teacher

Amy Gualtieri, STEP program teacher
Brianna Lawler, STARR program teacher

Jessica Wiggins, Speech and Language Therapist
Anna Baker, Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA)
Dorie Fishbone, Occupational Therapist
Laura Jefferies, Physical Therapist

Diane MacKenzie, Lead Preschool Teacher
Marisa DeAmicis, Preschool Teacher
Michelle Gosselin, Preschool Teacher

Sophia Estradea, Preschool Tutor
Alexandra Kelly, Preschool Tutor
Meghan Walsh, Preschool Tutor

Nancy Peck, STARR program Tutor
Rebecca McMillan, STEP program Tutor

Keith Henderson, Recreation Camp Tutor
Molly Goslin, Recreation Camp Tutor
Brooklyn Buehler, Recreation Camp Tutor