



Loudoun County Public Schools

# **EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM**

## **EVALUATION REPORT SUMMARY**

## Program Description

Extended School Year (ESY) services are specialized educational programs offered outside the regular academic calendar to students with disabilities who meet the eligibility criteria under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). ESY services are tailored to the individual needs of each student and may differ in terms of setting, type, intensity, timing, and duration.

ESY services are determined by the IEP team, which considers whether a child's progress made during the school year would be significantly hindered if the student does not receive services during an extended break. The ESY program evaluation presented tonight is specific to the services offered during the summer break.

The purpose of the program evaluation was to assess the existing service delivery models for summer ESY services. The team aimed to improve students outcomes through increased continuity of instruction and service delivery.

- Identify barriers to recruitment and retention of highly qualified staff
- Examine impact of location and timing
- Compare site-based vs. school-based programming for student benefit

## Research Questions

1. How can we minimize the amount of time spent on hiring ESY staff?
2. How can LCPS implement strategies to attract more teaching candidates and assistants to instruct students during ESY?
3. How much time is spent on training ESY staff to work with unfamiliar students and programs?
4. How many students are impacted by having to transition to a new school?
5. What is the impact on host site custodial staff and timelines for building cleaning and waxing?
6. What impact does changing buildings have on specialized equipment?
7. Approximately how many students would be served at each homeschool (based on average numbers from the last 2 years)?

## Conclusions

- Teachers reported that the top three strategies that could attract more ESY staff included an increased ESY salary, a shorter work week, and the ability to work at their current school with their current students.
- The majority of the hiring process spans from February to June and requires approximately 1.5 weeks of staff time.
- Approximately 80% of students across both the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years had to attend ESY at a different school than their own.

- If each school served their own students and the 2023 and 2024 ESY enrollment were averaged, 63 schools would have served 10 or fewer students and 28 schools would have served 5 or fewer students.
- Hosting ESY may have an impact on the school building being ready for the new school year.

## Recommendations

### Staffing

- Advertise rate for ESY staff commensurate with neighboring school divisions.
- Market the ability to split/share positions.
- Consider a 4-day week (M-Th).
- Potential benefits:
  - Increase the number of qualified applicants
  - Increase the fill rate with highly qualified LCPS employees
  - Increase retention of LCPS teachers and staff for ESY and beyond
  - Accommodate the need for a summer break

### Setting

- Maintain classroom location at the school that the students attend during the school year for summer ESY services.
- Potential benefits:
  - Familiarity with building, adults, materials and routines
  - Fewer transitions/less disruption for students who find transitions particularly difficult
  - Continuous meaningful instruction
  - Increased attendance and participation
  - Improved student outcomes
- Exception for school construction or other closures

The full report can be accessed [here](#).

