

Candler County Board of Education
Program for Exceptional Children

EXTENDED YEAR SERVICES

State and Federal laws require that extended year services (beyond the 180 day school year) must be considered for every eligible student with disabilities. The IEP annual review meeting is the vehicle for addressing this need during the annual review meeting. The primary factor in determining whether a child requires extended year services is a determination that unless these services are available the child would not benefit in the educational program. Therefore, students who have not shown reasonable educational progress based on their IEP should receive particular attention.

When addressing extended year options at the annual review meeting, it may help to open the discussion with a statement such as: "This IEP was developed based on the progress we would expect him or her to make during the regular, 180 day school year. Are we in agreement that such a plan will result in reasonable educational progress?" If the IEP committee feels that the student needs extended school year, it will be necessary to reschedule the IEP meeting so that the special education director can be invited to attend. Stop the meeting at that point and ask the parent or guardian for times when a meeting could be rescheduled that would be convenient for them. Then immediately contact the special education director to relay the information.

When the committee reconvenes, information will be reviewed to assist the IEP team in determining eligibility. This will include but is not limited to reviews of the following:

1. The student's history of typical responses to routine breaks in educational services, such as Christmas break (Did significant regression occur? If so, how long did it take to recoup lost skills?)
2. The student's rate of progress (Have educational gains been documented through mastery of IEP objectives?)
3. The student's pattern of progress (Are there recently emerging critical skills?)
4. The student's behavioral status (Are there severe problems that must be addressed to maintain educability?)