

# Exceptional Children Information for Parents

May 5, 2021



Public Schools of North Carolina  
State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov>

## School Extension Learning Recovery & Enrichment Programs

On April 9, 2021, [House Bill 82](#) was passed by the General Assembly of NC. In short, this is an “act to establish school extension learning recovery and enrichment programs in each local school administrative unit to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on at-risk students.”

### Summer Learning Choice Programs (SLCP)

The purpose of this program is to provide in-person instruction on specific subjects, as well as off additional enrichment activities, to students in kindergarten through grade 12, with the intent of addressing learning losses and negative impacts students have experienced due to COVID-19 during the 2020-2021 school year. Eligibility for this program is for any student considered to be “[at-risk](#).” If a student with a disability meets the “at-risk” definition, an opportunity to participate in this program must be offered. This program is NOT considered compensatory education or extended school year.

### Extended School Year Services (ESY)

ESY services are provided to students with disabilities if the IEP team determines that services are necessary for the provision of FAPE (free appropriate public education). The IEP team determines whether the student (1) regresses or may regress during extended breaks and cannot relearn the lost skills within a reasonable time, (2) gains during the regular school year will be significantly jeopardized, or (3) demonstrates critical skill acquisition that will be lost.

ESY services are NOT the same as compensatory services or the Summer Learning Choice Program. Participation in ESY does not exclude a student with a disability from a SLCP if he/she is eligible. ESY is based upon a student’s IEP goals and a need for the service.

Section 1501-2.4 of [Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities](#) contains more information about ESY.

Check out previous newsletters for other resources.

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/parent-resources/parent-listserv-communications>

## Important Links

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [N.C. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
  - [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit \(K-12\)](#)
- [N.C. Department of Public Instruction](#)
  - [Lighting Our Way Forward \(Summary\)](#)
- [No Kid Hungry](#)
- [NCDPI-COVID-19 Responses & Resources](#)

## Upcoming Events

- Arc of the Triangle [Events](#)
- Autism Society [Workshops](#)
- Autism Speaks [Information Topics](#)
- CADRE [Parent Resources](#)
- ECAC [Events](#) & [Recorded Webinars](#)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness [Courses](#)
- NC Down Syndrome Alliance [Events](#)
- Special Olympics NC [Events](#)

## 2021 National Coding Symposium

The APH ConnectCenter and California School for the Blind will cohost a FREE, virtual National Coding Symposium from Tuesday, May 11 through Friday, May 14, to demonstrate how the world of coding, programming, and related careers are available and accessible to students who are blind and visually impaired. Read the [Coding Symposium blog](#) to learn more and [register](#) for the Symposium.

Do you have an upcoming event you’d like to share with the community? Please email with information.

Contact: Alexis Utz, Parent Liaison  
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## **Compensatory Education**

Compensatory education is provided when there is a failure to provide FAPE (free appropriate public education) a student with a disability and there is evidence to confirm that procedural violations occurred in the implementation of the IEP or in the identification of a student with a disability. Compensatory education is NOT the same as SLCP and does not exclude a student with a disability from participating in a SLCP or ESY if they are eligible.

In [\*COVID-19 Handbook Volume 2: Roadmap to Reopening Safely and Meeting All Students' Needs \(p 34\)\*](#), the US Department of Education provided the following information:

It is important to note that strategies like in-school acceleration, tutoring programs, out-of-school time programs, and summer learning and enrichment are supplemental instruction and cannot replace a program of special education and related services based on a student's IEP and the decisions of the IEP Team. Similarly, these types of strategies cannot replace the special education and related services and other supports included in an IDEA eligible student's IEP as determined by the student's IEP Team or the regular or special education and related aids and services documented in a 504 plan, or the decisions made by a group of people who are knowledgeable about the child, the meaning of evaluation data, and placement options as required by Section 504.

In addition, inclusion of students with disabilities in district or schoolwide interventions to address lost instructional time does not relieve a district of its responsibility to make individualized decisions required under the IDEA about needed special education and related services for a student with a disability. These could include providing extended school year services as defined in IDEA when determined necessary to ensure that the student maintains the skills necessary for the student to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) if educational services are not continued during periods when school is not in session, such as the summer.

If there are questions or concerns regarding Summer Learning Choice Program, extended school year, or compensatory education, please contact your IEP team and/or the [EC Director](#) first. If additional questions or concerns arise, you can contact the [EC Division](#).