

FY 2008 QUESTION NUMBER: 43

QUESTION:

Provide information on the reduction changing the Extended Year Program (ESY) for special education students from five days to four days a week.

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: 7 - 81

ANSWER:

The FY 2008 recommended budget includes a proposal to provide Extended School Year (ESY) services for special education students four days a week rather than five days a week. The proposal included a recommendation that the typical ESY service be extended by one-and-a-half hours for each of the four days, so there would be no reduction in the number of hours of instruction that students receive, as compared with a five-day-a-week program. The extension of the school day would require that lunch be served to students; however, the total number of hours available for instruction would not be reduced.

This proposal was made because of two issues related to the provision of ESY services. It is difficult to recruit teachers who are willing to continue working through the summer to provide ESY services. It is anticipated that reducing the work week from five to four days will encourage more teachers to consider teaching ESY. This would be of potential benefit to both staff and students. Providing transportation for ESY for four rather than five days a week would result in a reduction of \$178,226 for non-position salaries and supplies and materials in transportation costs.