

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
San Juan Capistrano, California
October 8, 2014

TO: Kirsten Vital, Superintendent

FROM: Sara Jocham, Assistant Superintendent, SELPA

SUBJECT: SPECIAL EDUCATION BOARD ITEM

At tonight's Board meeting, there is a discussion/action item on 2015 extended school year (ESY) dates for special education students. The Trustees may have received a letter from the parent of student with special needs with concerns about the number of days and hours for the proposed 2015 ESY program. I have provided background on extended school year and the District's responsibility.

Extended school year services are required to be provided to eligible special education students in excess of the regular academic year. Students whom the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team believes will have significant regression and limited recoupment capacity are eligible and it must be documented in the IEP paperwork. The purpose is not to continue the regular school year program with the same length of school day and same related services, but to provide the necessary services and support over a break in the school year so students do not regress and have limited recoupment of their skills at the start of the next school year.

Prior to 2013, the District offered both a general education summer school program and a special education extended school year program. The general education program was 24 days long and 5.15 minutes per day in order for students to make-up credits. Under the Title 5 regulations §3043, students with disabilities must attend the same length of program as their age-appropriate peers. When the District offered a general education summer school program, the special education extended school year program ran a parallel program with number of hours and days.

In the summer of 2013 the District did not offer general education summer school programs. Once general education summer school was eliminated, the District is required under Title 5 regulations §3043 to offer an extended school year program with a minimum of 20 instructional days, including holidays. There is no requirement on the length of the extended school year day. There is no additional special education funding provided by the state or federal government for the extended school year program.

Please feel free to contact me if additional information is needed.