

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

To: Approved Extended School Year Special Education Providers (Preschool and School Age)
(Public and Private)
Chief Elected Official of the County
District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools

Date: July 12, 2010

From: Michael C. Plotzker, Coordinator of COASST

Subject: Reimbursement of Extended School Year Special Education Classes Cancelled Due to Summer Heat

A number of summer preschool special education programs, school age special education programs and special education programs in school districts have informed us that due to extremely hot weather conditions some of the school districts cancelled classes.

We recognize that in cancelling classes schools were acting out of concern for the health of the students served. However, extended school year programs, per the regulations of the Commissioner, must be in operation for 30 days. For the current school year, programs were allowed to include the July 4th holiday (celebrated on July 5th) in that 30 days resulting in a shortened schedule already. For those approved programs that cancelled special education classes due to the summer heat, they must make up those days by extending their summer program. For those programs who provide us with legitimate reasons why they cannot extend their program, they will not be reimbursed for the days that the program was not in session.

Since counties pay in the first instance and the State Education Department reimburses the county, counties should be sure to check with their approved extended school year programs both preschool and school age to determine if in fact programs were cancelled due to the summer heat, and whether the agencies/districts will or will not be able to extend their program in order to make up those cancelled days.

If extreme heat should occur in the future and programs cannot schedule a make-up day, it is recommended that approved programs remain open and have all staff report. Programs should also inform parents that if they feel that their child would be negatively impacted by the heat, they should keep their child at home.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Central Office Administrative Support Services Team (COASST) at 518-473-6108.

c: James Delorenzo
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