

# Darien Public Schools

## Special Education and Student Services

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### Update on 2021 Extended School Year (ESY) Program

September 14, 2021

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# Special Education Extended School Year Program

## ESY Program Overview

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*The Darien Public Schools Extended School Year (ESY) Program provides special education and related services to eligible students with an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) during June and July of the academic year. This year, we have seen a significant increase in ESY eligible students as a result of COVID-19 impact and have thoughtfully planned for student recovery services within our ESY recommendations.*

Each student's Planning and Placement Team (PPT) determines eligibility for the ESY Program on an individual basis. The PPT members consider:

- The nature or severity of the student's disability (nonregression);
- The student is likely to lose critical skills or fail to recover these skills within a reasonable time as compared to typical students (regression/recoupment);

# Special Education Extended School Year Program

## ESY Program Overview (continued)

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- The student's progress in the areas of learning crucial to attaining self-sufficiency and independence from caretakers (nonregression);
- The student's stereotypic, ritualistic, aggressive or self-injurious interfering behaviors prevent the student from receiving some educational benefit from the program during the school year (nonregression); or
- Other special circumstances identified by the IEP team such as: the ability of the student to interact with other non-disabled students; the areas of the student's curriculum that need continuous attention; the student's vocational needs; or the availability of alternative resources.

# Special Education Extended School Year Program

## 2021 Program Timeline

**June 25, 2021**  
Teacher Orientation  
and Set Up day



**June 28, 2021**  
First day of ESY for students



**July 30, 2021**  
Progress Reports emailed home  
to families



**August 2, 2021**  
Bridge Week 1 begins



**August 9, 2021**  
Bridge Week 2 begins



**June - July 2021**  
Ongoing provider  
communication with families



**July 30, 2021**  
ESY Ends

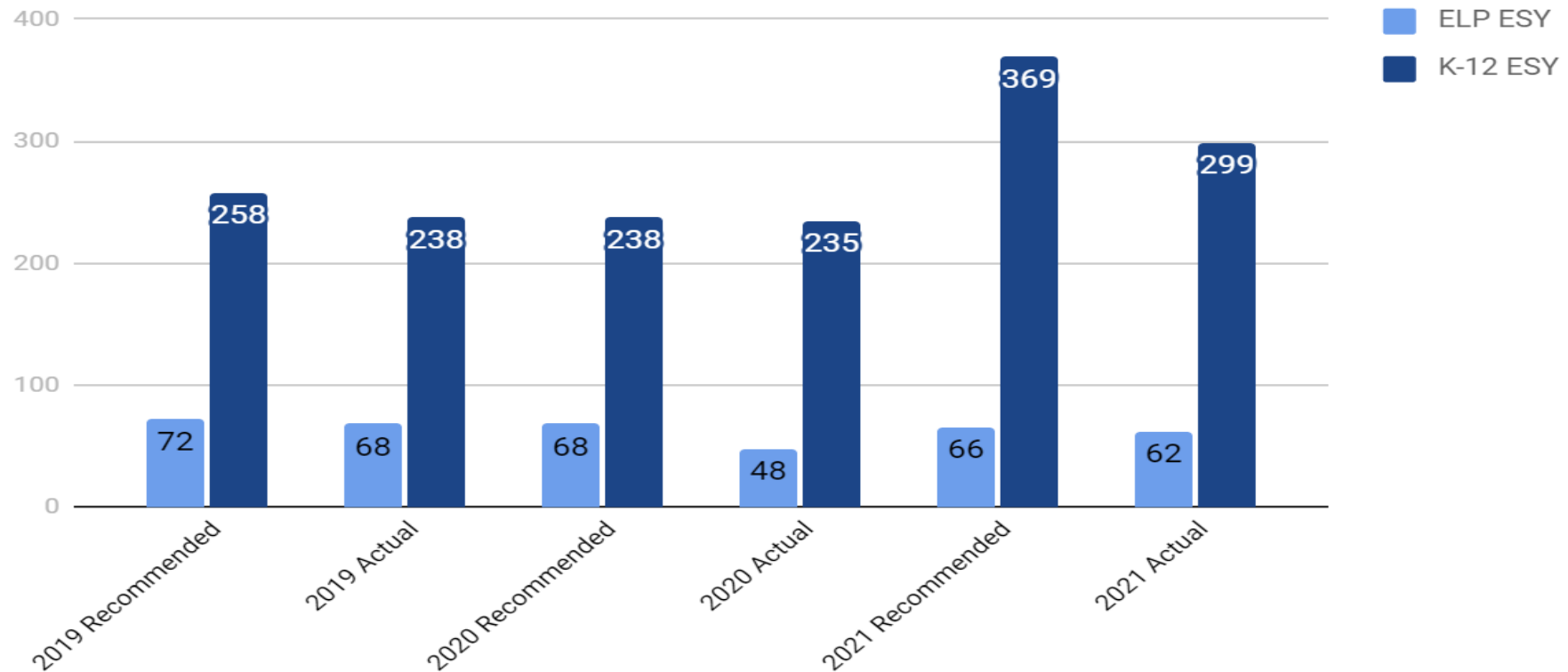


**August 3, 2021**  
ESY Parent and Staff Survey sent  
electronically



# Special Education Extended School Year Program Student Enrollment

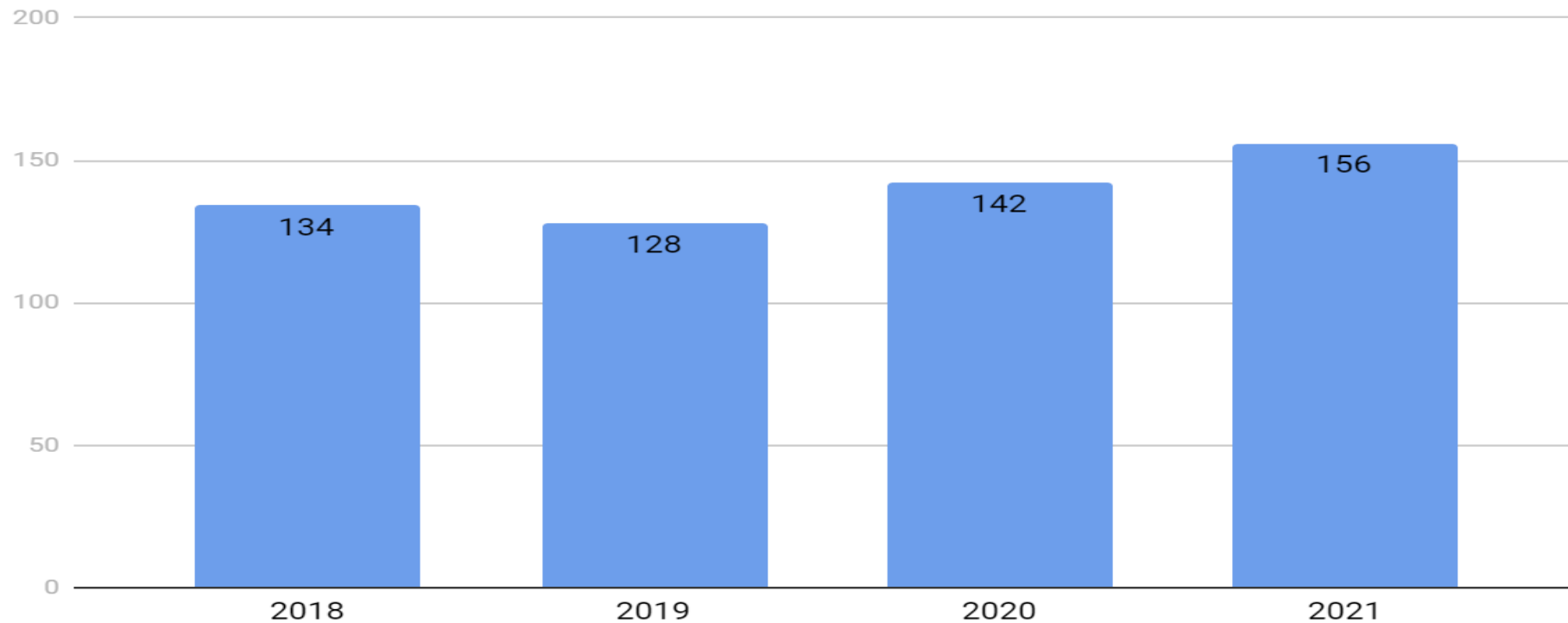
ESY Program Recommendations & Actual Attendance



# Special Education Extended School Year Program Staffing

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ESY 2021 Staff - Certified & Non-Certified (ELP - Grade 12)

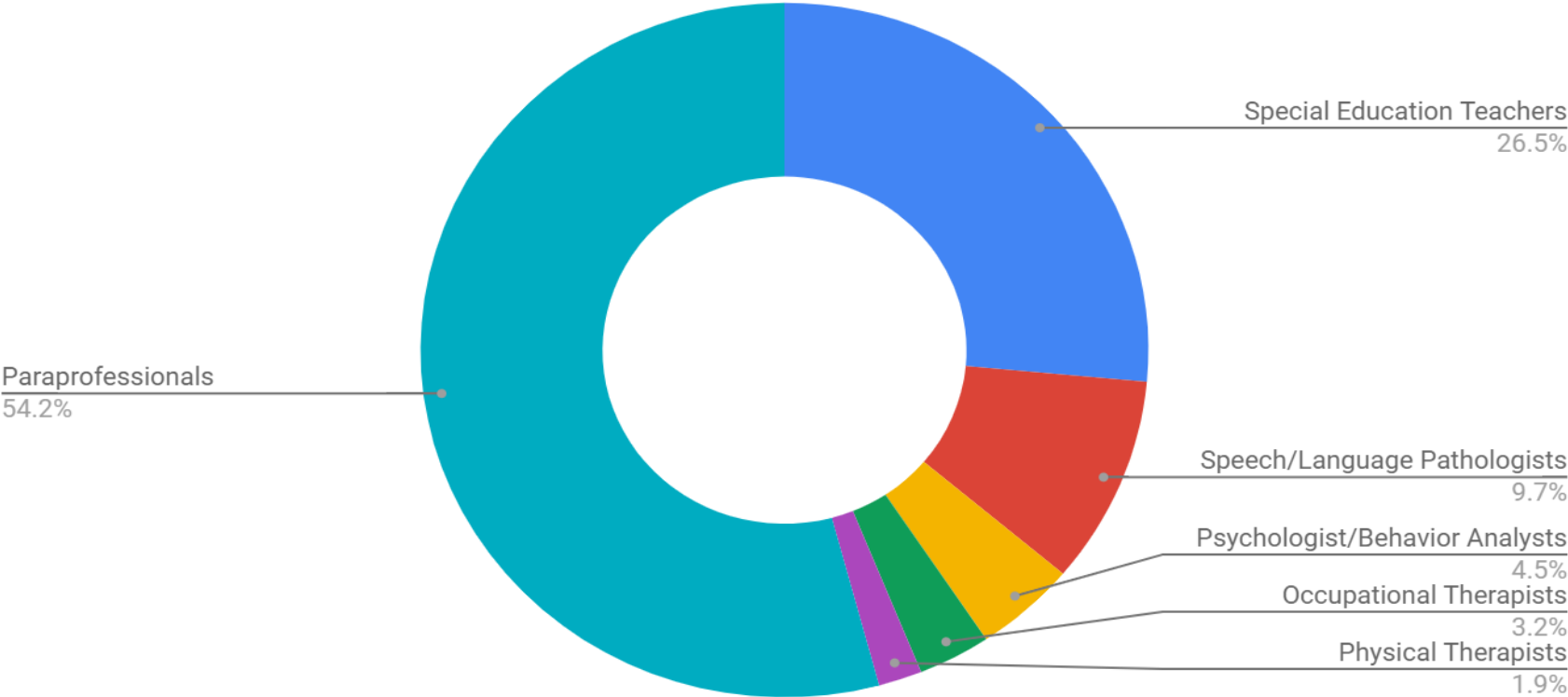


# Special Education Extended School Year Program

## 2021 ESY Program Staffing Breakdown

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Breakdown of ESY Program Staffing



# Special Education Extended School Year Program

## Feedback from Families: 2021 ESY Program

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Out of the 122 parent responses:

- ESY Communication & Logistics: 87.9% Strongly Agree or Agree
- Transportation: 61.9% Strongly Agree, Agree, or are Neutral

### Parent feedback:

- We thought the staff and teachers were wonderful, the school was easy to navigate after the first day. We did not take any DSS classes but will consider for next year.
- We are happy with all wonderful services our child received, as well as the camps she participated, she really enjoyed a lot. Thank you!
- Communication and logistics were properly administered.
- Appreciate the personal touch where everyone from our teachers to the executive staff is available and responsive over email and phone to address any concerns large or small. Thank you!!
- Everything was perfect! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication!



# Special Education Extended School Year Program

## Feedback from Families: 2021 ESY Program (continued)

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### Parent suggestions for improvement:

- We appreciated that one of the special education teachers reached out directly at the beginning of the summer. I would love if all staff reached out to parents so proactively.
- Would be nice to have a map of DHS as it's quite confusing for those of us who are not familiar with how its organized. A Map with room numbers would be great. Also for the individual classes, it would be helpful to know the best door for entry as we have no idea where is the closest door to go in.
- It can be difficult to string several classes together because of classes running different weeks/times blocks.
- There were certainly times the bus was late at drop off, the school had no information to share.
- Didn't receive bus schedule until days before camp. Otherwise no major issues.

# Special Education Extended School Year Program

## Feedback from Staff: 2021 ESY Program

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Out of the 58 total staff responses, staff reported:

- ESY Communication & Logistics: 87.5% Strongly Agree or Agree
- Transportation: 57.7% Strongly Agree or Agree
- Safety & Responsiveness: 91.5% Strongly Agree or Agree
- Climate: Top 3 Feelings
  - Fulfilling (60.4)
  - Excited (56.3%)
  - Energizing (27.1%)

Staff feedback:

- This summer was my first time working in the Darien school district for ESY and it was truly an amazing experience. The faculty was welcoming and informative from the moment I stepped into the school. On a daily basis the communication between the classroom teachers/instructors and the resource teachers was always clear, informative and helpful with the transitions of the preschoolers attending their resource sessions.

# Special Education Extended School Year Program

## Feedback from Staff: 2021 ESY Program (continued)

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- Well done, Kristin and team! I appreciate your warm communication and approachability.
- I had a great group of paraprofessionals working with me.
- It was a great summer! Strong ESY team!

### Staff suggestions for improvement:

- I suggest updated means of communication for planned absences of students (both short-term absences as well as declined status).
- A number of teachers, paras, and services had different schedules, even some into the 2nd and 3rd weeks. Perhaps having a centralized schedule system where anyone can access and note the changes, so teachers/paras/services can make those changes collectively.
- I know scheduling is very difficult to coordinate. I think the struggle occurred when students declined services last minute and last minute revisions needed to be made.
- For next year, all ESY staff are provided with key cards for easy access to the building.

# Special Education Extended School Year Program

## ESY 2021 Outcomes and 2022 Goals

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- Update parent and staff electronic surveys
- Implement electronic application for transportation and notification to families
- Implement electronic attendance reporting consistent with DSS practices
- Implement electronic system for revised student and staff schedules





**THANK YOU!**