

Darien Public Schools

Special Education and Student Services

Update on 2022 Extended School Year (ESY) Program

September 13, 2022

Shirley K. Klein, *Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services*

Kristin O'Reilly, *Elementary Program Director for Special Education and Student Services*

Laura Straiton, *Early Learning Program Director for Special Education and Student Services*

Scott McCarthy, *Secondary Program Director for Special Education and Student Services*

Special Education Extended School Year Program

ESY Program Overview

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. PPT teams continue to support students in thoughtful planning 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);

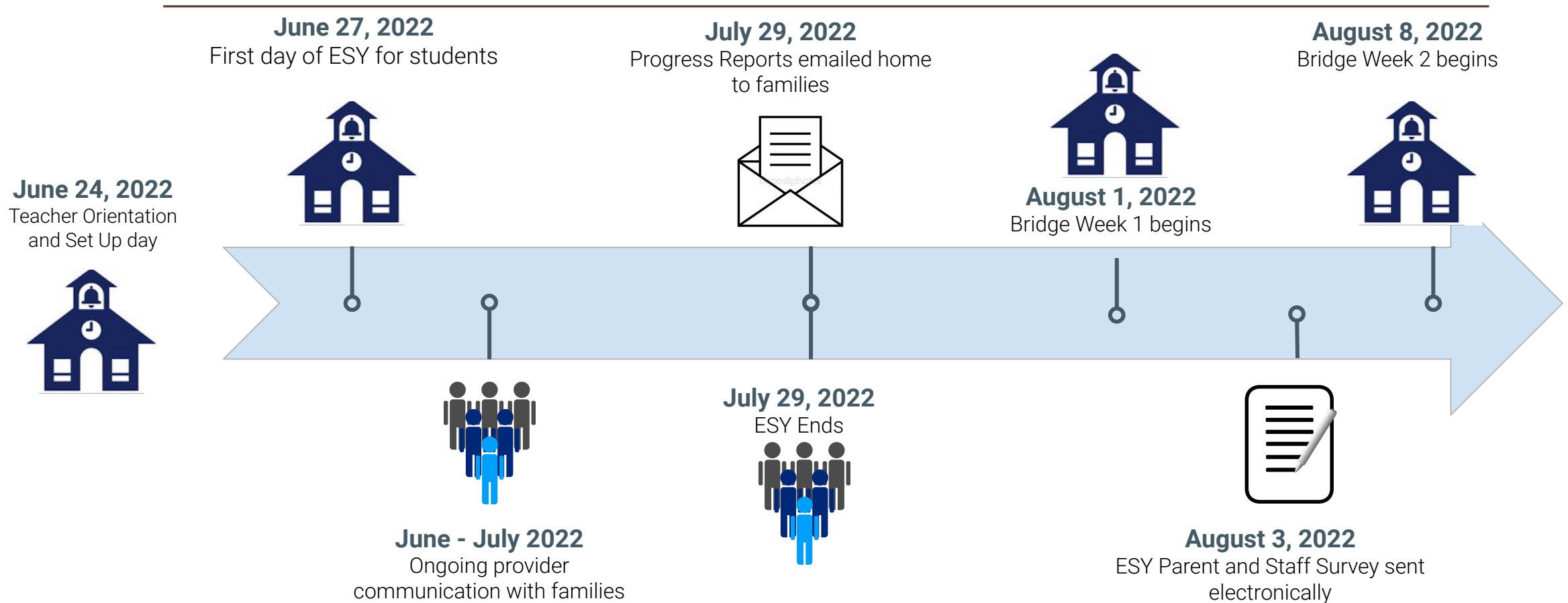
Special Education Extended School Year Program

ESY Program Overview (continued)

- 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.

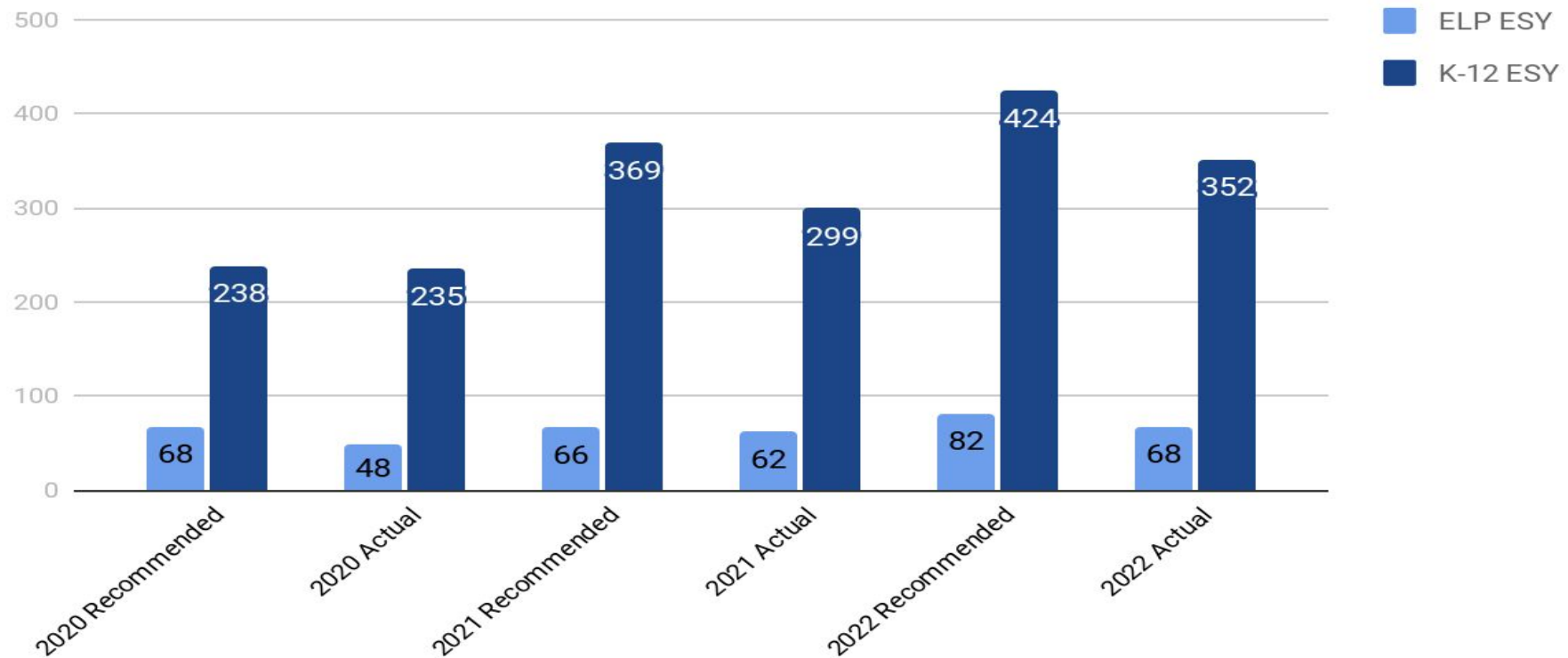
Special Education Extended School Year Program

2022 Program Timeline



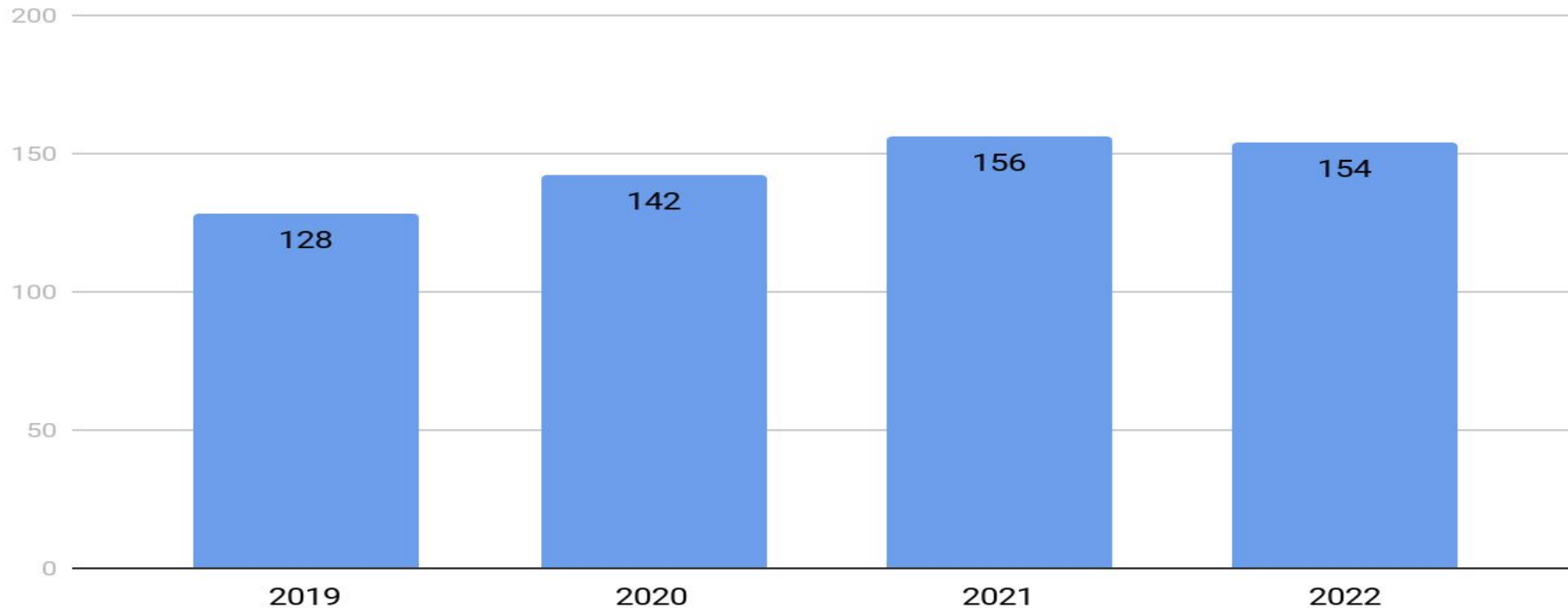
Special Education Extended School Year Program Student Enrollment

ESY Program Recommendations & Actual Attendance



Special Education Extended School Year Program Staffing

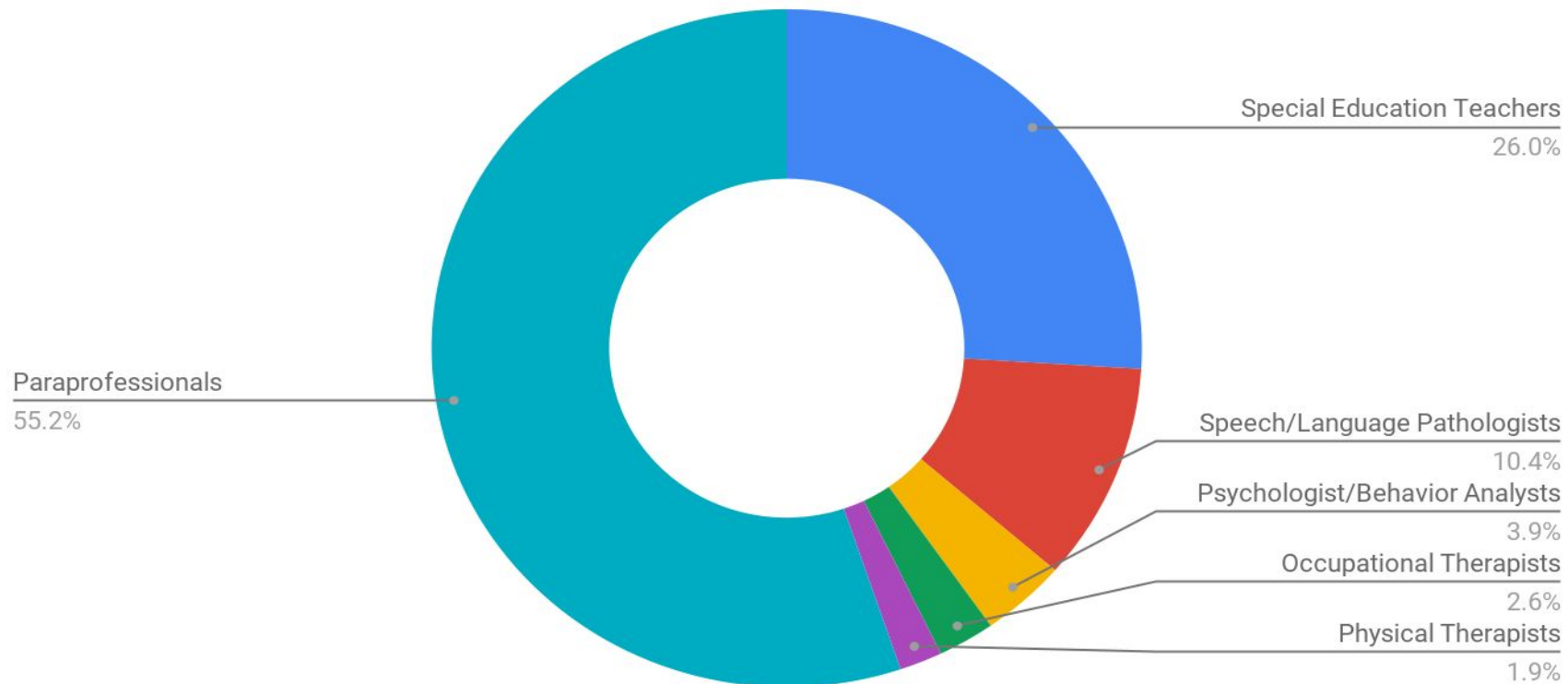
ESY 2022 Staff - Certified & Non-Certified (ELP - Grade 12)



Special Education Extended School Year Program

2022 ESY Program Staffing Breakdown

Breakdown of ESY Program Staffing



Special Education Extended School Year Program

Feedback from Families: 2022 ESY Program

87 Parent responses:

- ESY Communication and Logistics: 81.6% Strongly Agree or Agree
- Transportation: 64% Strongly Agree, Agree, or are Neutral (24% of respondents)

Parent feedback:

- This past year was a difficult one for the transportation industry with constant staffing issues, but I believe the communication was as timely as was possible and we were happy with transportation efforts.
- Was great having some familiar faces as well as some of the new staff my daughter will be working with this upcoming school year. Made the transition much smoother.
- All drivers and staff were very friendly and kind to my child.
- We are very happy with the special education services and communication.
- Staff kind and helpful - definitely improved organization from prior years.

Special Education Extended School Year Program

Feedback from Families: 2022 ESY Program (continued)

- The services offered through ESY are immeasurably helpful to my son. I observe significant progress in the skills he is working on and he is happy and excited to continue his attendance despite it being summer. A big thank you for all of the coordination to make this possible.

Parent suggestions for improvement:

- Would be nice if there were more slots for the earlier time, 8:30am. We got a tough time (10:30am, so I didn't enroll in the full program).
- This is such a great program! In just a few weeks I've seen improvements in speech and understandability. My only complaint about the program is the early start time. My child doesn't have time to eat breakfast or engage in any of his normal morning routines before the bus arrives. For children (and parents) who are accustomed to a 9:30am start time, 8am is too early.
- My child qualified for ESY however, we travel for the full summer. Would have loved the opportunity for REMOTE ESY.
- We are so happy with the ESY ELP program but would just love to have more communication about everything from logistics, names of aides in the classroom, to program curriculum to more regular updates on services received, etc.
- Frustrating that DSS classes were cancelled last minute.

Special Education Extended School Year Program

Feedback from Staff: 2022 ESY Program

22 Staff responses:

- ESY Communication & Logistics: 95.4% Strongly Agree or Agree
- Transportation: 63.6% Strongly Agree or Agree
- Safety and Responsiveness: 86.3% Strongly Agree or Agree
- Climate: Top 3 Feelings
 - Fulfilling (63.6)
 - Excited (54.5%)
 - Energizing (23.7%)

Staff feedback:

- I think everything went very well this summer. We had some scheduling issues that impacted some related service providers. As a new teacher, I learned a great deal this summer and look forward to using my toolkit next year.
- Anything I needed or I didn't have was given to me in a timely manner. I had great communication with the person that I contacted.

Special Education Extended School Year Program

Feedback from Staff: 2022 ESY Program (continued)

- It went perfect this year!
- I had a great group of paraprofessionals working with me.
- It was a great summer! Strong ESY team!

Staff suggestions for improvement:

- I'd like to request that next year case managers inform related service providers when students are absent at the start of each day. There were times when therapists waited for students and/or attempted to locate students for their sessions when they were not present.
- 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.
- Would like the front door to DHS opened earlier in the morning by the custodians so we can get into the building earlier.

Special Education Extended School Year Program

ESY 2022 Outcomes and 2023 Goals

Outcomes:

- Early access to parent and staff electronic surveys (prior to the end of ESY)
- Initial transportation requests to transportation coordinator by April 15
- Continued electronic system for student and staff schedule revisions
- Implemented electronic system for daily student attendance collection

Goals:

- Update student absence communication to providers throughout the day
- Earlier entry access to ESY building sites
- Continue early recruitment for teachers, related service providers, and paraprofessionals



THANK YOU!