

from:

to:

Important Dates

Contact Information

Local School District:

Telephone:

Website:

Florida Department of Education

Bureau of Public School Options

Telephone: 850 245-0749

website: www.fldoe.org/flbpso

U.S. Department of Education

Toll Free Information Line: 1-800-USA-LEARN

No Child Left Behind website: www.NoChildLeftBehind.gov



PARENT NEWSLETTER

Serving Parents and Students

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NCLB & SES

You've Heard About It, But What Is It?

An important feature of the *No Child Left Behind Act* says that when a child from a low-income family is attending a Title I school in need of improvement, federal money can be used to provide supplemental educational services for that child. Supplemental educational services are referred to as SES.

SES is extra help for your child, such as tutoring after the regular school day. There is **no charge** to you for these services designed to increase your child's learning skills with reading, language arts, or mathematics. This extra help may be provided before or after the regular school day or on weekends.

The state, your local school district, and you, as the parent or guardian, have responsibilities to make these services available for your child. The steps for getting this help for your child are easy. They are outlined below.

How Do You Know If You Qualify?

Your school district has established qualifications based on your family's income. Often these qualifications are the same as those to receive free or reduced-priced lunches. In easy terms, if your family income meets the eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch and your child attends a Title I school that has not made adequate yearly progress for three or more consecutive years, then your child is eligible for free tutoring.

Your school district is required to tell you promptly if your child's school is in need of improvement.

5 Ways SES Benefits Your Child

1. The extra help gives you options for improving your child's education.
2. Supplemental educational services are intended to build on learning taking place during the regular school day. Your child has the opportunity to reinforce the day's lessons and receive help with understanding the lessons.
3. Your child will be encouraged to develop positive work habits when extra assistance is provided and help comes from tutoring or exercises that are individualized.
4. Improving learning will build your child's self-esteem and positive relations with peers.
5. In general, research shows that offering students a safe and supportive after school learning environment can reduce the chances that the child will engage in risky behaviors involving tobacco, drugs or violence. SES is not intended to serve as simply day-care.

What Is A Parent To Do?

When your school district notifies you that your child is eligible for SES, you will also receive a list of the state-approved providers that offer services in your area. **The choice is yours.** You may select your child's provider. If you need help, just contact your child's school.

Transportation to the provider's site is not provided by the district.

Choosing A Provider

Once you receive notice that your child is eligible for free tutoring, the next step is to consider and select a provider. Your district will give you a list of approved providers, which will include a description of their services and their qualifications. The list will include providers in your district. You may ask for help with the selection from your district.

Here are questions you may want to ask providers before choosing a provider for your child:

1. What programs at which grade levels are available for my child?
2. How often will tutoring be provided?
3. When will the services be provided? When do they begin and how long do they last?
4. Where will the services be provided?
5. Do you offer transportation for my child?
6. How will your program and your services address the needs of my child?
7. What are the qualifications and experience of the staff?
8. What evidence is available regarding the effectiveness of your program and/or services?
9. How do I sign up for services?

Working With Your School District

Once you select a provider, you will meet with the provider and district staff. This team must set specific academic goals for your child, determine how those goals will be measured, and establish a timeline for when they will be achieved. Your district will then enter into an agreement with the provider for your child. The services are paid for by the district using federal money allocated for this purpose.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Will My Child Receive SES Every Day?

Depending on your agreement with the district and provider, this can vary from every day to a few times a week. After school is the most common time for SES to be offered, but services can also take place before school, on weekends, or during the summer.

Is Transportation Provided?

Districts are not required to offer transportation for children to attend their SES program. If your child will need transportation, ask the provider whether transportation will be offered. Some providers may offer services on site at your child's school. If no transportation is offered, you will need to make plans to get your child to and from the provider's service location.

How Will I Know My Child Is Progressing?

When you have made your selection of a provider and met with your local school district representative and the provider, goals will be established for your child. Providers are required to report back to you and the district about your child's progress toward these goals. You should ask how often you may expect to get this information. Be sure to ask your school district what procedures are in place if your child does not show improvement after working with a provider. You may be able to switch to another provider.

What is adequate yearly progress (AYP)?

This is a method for assessing how well a school is performing. AYP is the measurement of all students in a school or district in demonstrating proficiency in at least reading/language arts and mathematics on state achievement tests and on other academic measures such as graduation rates. Each state has its own definition of AYP, which must be approved by the U. S. Department of Education. Florida's definition of AYP reflects the goal that all students are proficient in reading and mathematics by the end of the school year 2013-2014. More detailed information about AYP in Florida is available on the DOE website at www.fldoe.org.

More Questions?

You may have more questions. If so, please feel free to contact your local school district or access information from the Florida Department of Education or the United States Department of Education. Contact information is provided on the following page.

