

# SES and School Choice Bulletin

***Did you know that... many students struggling in reading, math, and language arts are entitled to extra academic help and tutoring?***

Under Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act, children from low-income families who are having trouble achieving academically are entitled to educational assistance at public school expense. This extra help is referred to as Supplemental Educational Services and must be provided to students from low-income families who attend Title 1 schools that have been identified as “low performing.” These services are designed to increase the academic achievement of low-income students and to enable these students to attain proficiency in meeting their state’s academic standards.

### **What Parents Need To Know:**

- School districts must notify parents of eligible students, in a language and format that parents can understand, that these services are available. This notice must be issued annually.
- Parents are the decision-makers about Supplemental Service Providers and the responsibility to request these services lies with the parent. Parents choose a provider they feel meets their child’s needs from a state-approved list of providers.
- Supplemental Services must be offered after the regular school day (during the summer, before/after school) by providers that are certified by the state education agency as qualified to help students to achieve proficiency on the states’ academic assessment.
- The only students eligible to use these services are those from low income families, usually determined by eligibility for free and reduced lunch prices.
- At the local level parents, the school district and the provider chosen by parents must identify specific academic achievement goals for the student, measures of student progress, and a timetable for improving achievement. In the case of a student with disabilities, or a student covered under Section 504\*, these decisions must be consistent with the individualized education program.
- All parents whose children receive supplemental education services must be regularly informed of their student’s progress. If you are not happy with your child’s provider, you have the right to choose a new provider.
- Supplemental Services must be offered to eligible students with disabilities and English Language Learners.
- If a school’s Title I funds are not sufficient to provide services to all eligible children whose parents’ request them, priority must be given to the lowest achieving, low-income students.
- The school district makes arrangements for the services and pays the provider.
- These services are to be provided until the school is no longer in need of improvement.
- If parents request it, schools must provide them with assistance in choosing a provider.

### **Example of How it Works:**

Supplemental Services can be provided through one-on-one tutoring, small-group tutoring, technology based approaches, or other educational interventions, so long as they are based on research, designed to increase academic achievement, and consistent with the instructional program of the local district and state standards. Community based programs, non-profit groups, after school programs, faith-based programs, and for-profit groups are all potential providers.

## THE FACTS ABOUT *NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND*

- **Funding:** *No Child Left Behind* gives school districts more money. In fact, President Bush and Congress are spending more money than ever before on the education of America's children.
- **Flexibility:** *No Child Left Behind* gives states and school districts more control and more flexibility to use resources where they are needed most. Principals and administrators will spend less time filling out forms and more time helping your child learn.
- **Accountability:** *No Child Left Behind* holds schools and school districts accountable for results. Schools are responsible for making sure your child is learning.
- **School District Report Cards:** *No Child Left Behind* gives parents report cards so they can see which schools in their district are succeeding and why. With this information, *No Child Left Behind* gives parents, community leaders, teachers, principals, and elected leaders the information they need to improve schools.
- **Public School Choice:** *No Child Left Behind* may let you transfer your child to another public school if the state says that your child's school is "in need of improvement." Your school district may pay for transportation for your child. Contact your child's school district to find out if your child has this opportunity.
- **Extra Help with Learning:** *No Child Left Behind* may also provide your child with free tutoring and extra help with schoolwork if the state says your child's school has been "in need of improvement" for at least 2 years. This extra help is often referred to as Supplemental Educational Services. Contact your child's school district to find out if your child qualifies.
- **Parental Involvement:** *No Child Left Behind* requires schools to develop ways to get parents more involved in their child's education and in improving the school. Contact your child's school to find out how you can get involved.

**Measuring Knowledge:** *No Child Left Behind* requires states to test your child in reading and math every year in grades 3-8. Your child will also be tested at least once in high school. By the end of the 2007-2008 school year, the law requires testing to be conducted in science once during grades 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12. The tests will help you, your child, and your child's teachers know how well your child is learning and when he or she needs extra help.

## Alabama PIRC Serves All Families and Schools in Alabama

Since October 2003, the Alabama Parent Education Center has operated a Parent Information and Resource Center (formerly PIRCCA). In 2006, we were awarded a new PIRC grant and expanded our services statewide. As the Alabama PIRC, we work closely with families in schools that have been identified as low performing to help families and teachers raise student achievement. We also conduct leadership training for teams of families and teachers from low performing schools. If the Alabama PIRC is not in your school and you have questions about your child's education, contact our office.



### Alabama PIRC

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*"Parents Helping Parents Help Their Kids"*



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