



Resource 8

What NCLB Says About Supplemental Educational Services*

One of the provisions of the *No Child Left Behind Act* that is important for parents to know about is called Supplemental Educational Services. This is extra, outside help for students who attend Title I schools which are in their second year of school improvement or beyond. Ask your school principal if your child's school receives Title I funds and whether the school has an *NCLB* designation of School Improvement Year 2, Corrective Action or Restructuring.

The *No Child Left Behind Act* says that a school is determined to be "in need of improvement", if it has failed to meet state goals or adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two years in a row.

- In New Mexico, that is determined primarily by results on statewide assessments based on New Mexico standards and benchmarks.
- There is a formula to find out how the scores should be progressing. This is called "adequate yearly progress" (AYP).
- If a school's scores are NOT high enough, then the school has failed to make adequate yearly progress (AYP). If this happens for two years in a row, the school is said to be "in need of improvement."

Parents of students attending Title I schools identified "in need of improvement" are offered the following options:

- Public school choice is available to all children in Title I schools "in need of improvement". It must be offered in the first school year after a school has been determined to be "in need of improvement".
- Supplemental educational services must be offered to parents *at the district's expense* in the second and subsequent years after a school has been determined to be "in need of improvement".
 - All eligible families are offered these services. Priority for this additional help is given to low-income parents.
 - The district provides money for parents to choose the provider of these extra services from a list approved by the New Mexico Public Education Department.
 - The supplemental educational services provide extra help in reading, language arts or math and must take place outside of regular school hours.
 - These services can take place before or after school or on weekends. Services may include tutoring, extra classes or special programs offered by providers in the community.

Here are answers to questions parents may ask about Supplemental Educational Services.

How will I know if my child is eligible for these supplemental services?

If your child attends a Title I school that is “in need of improvement”, supplemental services must be offered in the second year of this rating. As soon as your child becomes eligible for this extra help, the district should notify you and provide a list of organizations and tutors who have been approved by the state as providers.

You are free to choose any provider on the list. Your school district will pay for the services to your child. Churches, nonprofit organizations, private tutors, for-profit companies and other providers may be on the approved list.

How can I learn more about the providers on the list so that I’ll be able to decide which one I want to work with my child?

The list you receive from the school district should include information about these providers, such as their qualifications to provide the specific services and their past results. Before you choose a provider, it would be a good idea for you to talk to a few of them. Ask questions about how they will help your child. Find out how they teach the subjects that your child needs the most help with.

How will I know if these services are helping my child?

When you have chosen the provider you want to work with your child, you will meet with them to set some goals for your child. You will also discuss how you will be sure the goals have been met and set a time line for getting it done.

Will providers on the list also know how to work with students with disabilities?

Students with disabilities must have the same access to extra services as students without disabilities. The state must be sure to include on the list of providers those who can adequately help students who need extra accommodations.

What if my district doesn’t give me this information?

You can request information about Supplemental Educational Services offered under *NCLB* from the New Mexico Public Education Department’s School Assistance Bureau or Title I office.

* For more information and current revisions of the *No Child Left Behind Act* go to the US Department of Education’s *NCLB* web site page at <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml>

Adapted from : Parents Reaching Out , www.parentsreachingout.org