

SES Summary Background

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act amended the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in ways to strengthen parent involvement and choice in education. The most critical amendments focus attention and resources on improving low-performing schools and providing access for all students to high quality education. Under NCLB, low-achieving, disadvantaged students attending Title I schools that do not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two or more consecutive years are eligible to receive SES.

NCLB provides low-income parents an opportunity to access free tutoring services to expand options for their children who are struggling in school. These services provide students with extra help in academic subjects such as reading, language arts, and mathematics.

A student is generally eligible for SES if he or she is eligible for free or reduced-price lunch and attends a Title I school identified by the state as not making AYP for two or more consecutive years. Eligible families choose an SES provider from a list developed by the state, and school districts pay for the tutoring services from funds reserved for this purpose.

NCLB defines SES as tutoring or other additional education services that provide academic assistance to students outside the regular school day. These services must be high quality, research based, and specifically designed to increase the academic achievement of eligible children. Entities eligible to provide SES may include:

- community agencies
- school districts
- public, private, and charter schools
- after school programs
- community colleges
- private companies
- online schools
- faith based organizations

Legislative Requirements

According Florida Statute 1008.331 Supplemental Educational Services in Title I Schools; School District and Provider Responsibilities:

- School districts must create a streamlined parent enrollment and provider selection process for supplemental educational services and ensure that the process enables eligible students to begin receiving supplemental educational services no later than October 15 of each school year.
- Compliance is met when the school district has obtained evidence of reception or rejection of services from the parents of at least a majority of the students receiving free or reduced-price lunch in Title I schools that are eligible for parental choice of transportation or supplemental educational services unless a waiver is granted by the State Board of Education. A waiver shall only be granted if there is clear and convincing evidence of the district's efforts to secure evidence of the parent's decision. Requirements for parental election to receive supplemental educational services shall not exceed the election requirements for the free and reduced-price lunch program.
- If a school district has not spent the required supplemental educational services set-aside funding, the district may apply to the Department of Education after January 1 for authorization to reallocate the funds. If the Commissioner of Education does not approve the reallocation of funds, the district may appeal to the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education must consider the appeal within 60 days of its receipt, and the decision of state board shall be final.
- HB1414: Requires an evaluation conducted by the State DOE of all state approved SES provider. Evaluation protocol to be determined over the 2008-2009 school year.