

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# *Federal Title I*

## **Supplemental Educational Services**





## Frequently Asked Questions About the Federal Title I Supplemental Educational Services (SES) 2005–2006 School Year

### *Introduction*

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB Act) is a federal law that requires school districts to offer income-eligible students in identified federally-funded Title I schools the option to receive Supplemental Educational Services (SES). Your child's school may participate in the SES program in the upcoming school year. Income eligibility is determined based on the student's 2005–2006 Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS) application. The following information answers some questions that you may have about the SES program.

### *What are supplemental educational services?*

SES is a reading and/or mathematics tutoring program that takes place before or after school or on weekends. Only income-eligible students may participate in the program, which is offered at no cost to families. **However, transportation is not available.** Only state-approved SES

providers can tutor eligible students. Families select the provider from the list included in this brochure using the enclosed SES Interest Survey to apply.

### ***How was my school identified for this program?***

There are specific federal rules under the NCLB Act that apply to the annual performance of students in Title I schools. In Maryland, students in Grades 3 through 8 and Grade 10 take the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) test each year. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) sets specific MSA improvement goals in reading and mathematics and attendance or graduation rate. These goals are known as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Title I schools offer parents SES if one of the following occurs:

- The school does not meet the state improvement goal for three or more consecutive years and is identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring.
- Once identified, the school meets the target for one year, but not the next.

Schools must continue to offer SES until state improvement goals are met for two consecutive years. When the targets are met for two consecutive years, SES is no longer offered.

### ***Can every student in a Title I school participate in the SES program?***

No. Only students who qualify for FARMS are eligible for SES. Also, because of the limited number of spaces in the SES program, the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) may not be able to enroll every eligible student. Participation in the program is based on the number of applicants and the amount of funds available.

### ***How do families choose the services and providers their child receives?***

A list of all approved providers who may offer services in MCPS is included in this brochure. Families are able to choose among different types of providers who offer services at different locations. Staff at your school can help you select a provider if you ask them for assistance, and an SES notebook with more detailed information is available at the school. Families are also encouraged to attend advertised meetings to talk with providers. You may wish to contact the providers directly to get more information about their services and programs. (See list of providers included in this brochure.) There is no obligation to enroll your child in SES.

### ***How does an SES provider get paid?***

MCPS will pay the providers directly, based on a pre-approved contract.

Providers are only paid for the hours that they provide direct tutoring to your child. There is no cost to parents.

### ***Who are the SES providers?***

SES providers are companies or organizations that are approved by MSDE to offer services to your child. A brief description of all providers and the services they offer is included in this brochure. At this time, these are the only approved providers who agree to work with MCPS students.

### ***How do I apply for SES services for my child?***

If your child is approved to receive FARMS in an identified Title I school, you can apply for SES services. Complete the SES Interest Survey and return it to your child's school by September 23, 2005.

### ***Does everyone who applies for SES participate in the program?***

The NCLB Act mandates that a specific percentage of the district's Title I funds be used to pay for SES. The SES Interest Survey will be used to determine the number of participants. If there are insufficient funds to pay for all applicants, we will give first priority to the lowest-achieving students. The achievement level will be based on the student's score on the MSA, the MCPS Assessment Program, and other available educational data. In cases in which students have the same scores, we will select students for the SES program by random lottery.

### ***When will services begin and for how long will services be provided?***

Our plan is to begin services for income-eligible students at the beginning of November. The providers offer a predetermined number of sessions that take place during the school year. The services must be completed in the school year in which they begin.

### ***Is transportation provided for students who qualify for SES?***

No. Transportation for SES is the responsibility of the student's family.

### ***Can families who enrolled their children in another MCPS school using the Federal Title I School Choice Option receive SES?***

No. Families of students who attend Title I schools in year 2 of school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring have the option to select either school choice or SES, but not both. If your child is participating in the Federal Title I School Choice Option and qualifies for FARMS, you may decide to return to your home school and request SES. However, until all applications are received, there is no guarantee that SES services will be

available for every child based on funding.

### ***How will I know if my child was approved for SES services?***

All families who submit an SES Interest Survey will be notified in writing in October 2005 regarding the status of their request. Also, if your child is approved, the SES provider will contact you with specific information about the program (e.g., time and location).

### ***Will SES always be available at my child's Title I school?***

No, Title I schools that meet the state achievement standards for two consecutive years are removed from school improvement status and are no longer required to offer SES or school choice.

### ***How can I learn more about SES?***

Families can attend the scheduled meeting at their home school, and/or contact their home school principal or the Division of Academic Support, Federal and State Programs at 301-230-0660.





This document is available in an alternate format, upon request, under the Americans with Disabilities Act, by contacting the Department of Communications, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850, 301-279-3391 or 1-800-735-2258 (Maryland Relay).

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