

# NCPiE BULLETIN

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## *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 recently enacted 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 Services** and must be provided to students from low-income families who attend Title I 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.

### **School Choice vs. Supplemental Services:**

For many parents, the option of changing schools is not attractive. In the rural areas of the country, it may not even be an option. If your child is attending a school that is in its first year of improvement and school choice is an option, but you don’t want to change schools, you may request that your child receive supplemental services instead. This option may be implemented on a limited basis. Remember the goal is to form a partnership with your school to improve student performance. Take this as an opportunity to work more closely with school administrators to help bring the school up to standard. Join with other families to find out what you can do to improve your school.

### **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.

### **Where to go for more Information:**

Your State Department of Education: <http://www.ccsso.org/seamenu.html>

*Title I Supplemental Educational Services and Afterschool Programs: Opportunities and Challenges:* <http://www.financeproject.org/suppsvc.pdf>

Local PIRC and Parent  
Leader Contact Information

National Education Association’s “*Parent’s Guide to Choosing Supplemental Services Providers*”:  
[www.nea.org/parentsguidesuppservs.html](http://www.nea.org/parentsguidesuppservs.html)

*No Child Left Behind: What’s in it for Parents*” by Anne Henderson: <http://www.ksaplus.com>

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*“Using No Child Left Behind to Improve Student Achievement: An Action Guide for Community and Parent Leaders”* by the Public Education Network: <http://www.publiceducation.org/>

U. S. Department of Education: <http://www.nclb.gov/parents/supplementalservices/index.html>

\* Section 504 is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against anyone with a disability by an entity that receives federal funding. This includes public schools and can include such services as after-school programs that are housed in schools.