



Free Tutoring Available Under the No Child Left Behind Act

Your child may be eligible for **free** tutoring under the *No Child Left Behind Act*. This extra academic help is called **Supplemental Educational Services**, or **SES**. “Supplemental Educational Services” means extra academic help — such as tutoring — in reading, language arts, or math. Eligible students receive these services outside the regular school day — before or after school, on weekends, or in the summer.

Across the country and across Massachusetts many more students could be receiving these services. Many parents simply do not understand that this benefit is available to their child and that it is free. It is up to parents to apply for SES on behalf of their children.

Who can get these services?

1. Students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, and
2. Students enrolled in a Title I (Title One) school that has been “in need of improvement” for two or more years in a row. Schools are said to be “in need of improvement” when they do not meet adequate yearly progress goals set by the state.

How will I know if my child is eligible?

Your school district should notify you. Early in the school year, parents should receive a letter about how their child’s school is performing. This letter will also let you know if your child is eligible for Supplemental Educational Services.

The letter may be part of a packet that contains a lot of technical details. It is easy to miss the information about your child’s eligibility for free tutoring or SES. Letters can also get lost in the child’s backpack or in the mail. Look for this letter from the school district.

What should I do if I don’t have a letter from the school district or if I am still not sure my child is eligible?

Ask your school principal if your child is eligible. If the school principal does not know, ask for the name and telephone number of the Title I Director. You can also contact Massachusetts PIRC toll-free at 1-877-471-0980 if you have any question about your child’s eligibility. We will be happy to help.

Key Things to Remember about SES

1. SES means free tutoring or other academic help.
2. Eligible children do not receive SES automatically -- parents must ask for SES.
3. There is a deadline for applying for SES.
4. Parents choose the SES provider from an approved list.
5. Schools are **not** required to provide transportation.

Yes, they really are FREE!

The school, not the parent,
pays the SES provider directly.

What should I do next if my child is eligible?

SIGN UP. If you do not ask for this service, you will not get it, even if your child is eligible.

SIGN UP by the deadline set by the district. Ask when the deadline is. You may have 4 to 6 weeks from the time you receive notice of your child’s eligibility. Timelines vary from district to district.

How do I find a good SES program for my child?

The school district will give you a list of approved SES providers in your area. You must choose from this list. Parents are able to choose among various tutoring programs offered at different locations. This way, parents decide what is best for their children. Some of the types of organizations that may be on the list

are private tutoring companies, public schools, charter schools, community organizations, and faith-based organizations such as churches. Some programs may offer computer-based instruction.

In selecting a program, it is important to remember that schools do **not** have to provide transportation.

If you ask for assistance, your school district must help you choose a provider. If the information you receive is difficult to understand, or if you have any questions about your child's special language or learning needs, you should ask the school for help. Many schools also now sponsor "open houses" or SES provider "fairs" so you can meet the SES providers in person.



What happens after I have chosen an SES Program?

You will meet with the SES provider and staff from your school to set goals for our child, decide on a schedule for services, decide how your child's progress will be measured, and set up a communication plan.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and secondary Education provides information, guidelines, list of approved SES providers, and schools required to provide SES online at www.doe.mass.edu/ses.

Please contact Massachusetts PIRC at 1-877-471-0980 for more information about SES or visit our Website at www.masspirc.org and type SES in the search box at the top right side.

Many school districts are making strong efforts to help families understand that Supplemental Educational Services are available. Stay alert to anything that can give you information about SES or free tutoring.

**ATTENTION
PARENTS!**

This *Bulletin* tells how to find out if your child is eligible to receive free tutoring and how to apply for this service for your child.

Help your child succeed
in school—sign up for
free tutoring!

Your child may be eligible.



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