



## URGENT Message for Families: Free Tutoring Under NCLB

### If your child's school offered you \$1,500, would you take it?

*Of course you would!* Well, the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) says that schools **MUST** offer low-income children, in some public schools, free tutoring or other extra academic help. In Massachusetts, this help may be worth around \$1,500 or more for each child. These free services are called **Supplemental Educational Services**, or **SES**.

During the 2004-05 school year, across the country, not even 2 of every 10 students who were eligible for this free tutoring actually requested and received it.

If your child could benefit from extra help with math or reading and writing, **don't miss this opportunity for free tutoring!** Read more to find out how your child may be able to benefit.



### What are Supplemental Educational Services?

Supplemental Educational Services (SES) are **FREE** academic help for students in English language arts (reading and writing) and/or math. This extra help must take place outside the school day. It could be before or after school, on weekends, or during the summer.

### Are they really free?

**Yes!** They are free to eligible students. Families do not need to pay anything at all. The school pays the "provider" (the person who gives the tutoring) directly.

### Who can get these services?

To be eligible for these free services, students must:

1. qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program,
2. attend a public Title I school that has been "identified for improvement" for two or more years in a row.

Eligible students can be in regular or special education, and can be students who are just learning to speak English as a second language. (These students are often called English Language Learners, or ELLs.)

Schools must make SES services available to eligible students, including those with special *learning* or *language* needs. ELL students must be able to receive the language assistance they need to benefit from SES. Students with disabilities must be able to receive the learning accommodations they need to benefit from SES.

### How will I know if my child is eligible?

Your school district and school must let you know if your child is eligible. Sometimes notices from the school can get lost. To make sure, it is a good idea to call the school principal and ask if your child is eligible for SES.

Families may also call Parents' PLACE toll free at 1-877-471-0980. We have a record of all schools in Massachusetts that must provide SES.

*The important thing is to act fast!* As soon as you hear about about SES, call the school or Parents' PLACE to find out if you child might be eligible.

# Action Steps

Parents, your child may qualify for FREE tutoring!

This extra help in reading and math is available through a program called **Supplemental Educational Services**, or **SES**, a part of the *No Child Left Behind Act*.

In general, follow these three simple steps:

## STEP 1: Find out if your child qualifies.

Call the principal at your child's school or call Parents' PLACE at 1-877-471-0980 to find out if your child's school has to offer free tutoring.

## Step 2: Sign up.

Call your child's school to get the sign-up form and information about who is providing SES in your area. It is important to act fast and to turn in the form before the deadline.

## Step 3: Register.

After you find out you are eligible, fill in the registration form. Select a location and time for tutoring that works for your family. Clearly mark which provider you choose for your child. If you ask, the school must help you decide. Parents' PLACE also has a list of SES providers and tips on selecting a provider. Turn in the form to your school or school district by their due date. Once the school has found your child eligible and you have registered, your child can attend the tutoring sessions. The school district will begin to pay the tutoring program.

Schools and schools districts have different timelines and steps. *Make sure to ask for details specific to your child's school.*

## PARENTS, IT IS UP TO YOU TO REQUEST THIS SERVICE!

Even if your child is eligible, the school does not have to provide free tutoring unless you ask for it.

*If you need help with any of these steps, please call Parents' PLACE toll free at 1-877-471-0980.*

# Let's work together to truly leave No Child Behind!

## Parents...

Parents' PLACE is here to support you and families like yours to be the power behind your children's education!

## Schools...

Parents' PLACE can help you find ways to tap the power of parents for your school's success!

Call us toll free at 1-877-471-0980 (ext. 371 for Spanish or 344 for Portuguese) for FREE workshops and other resources.

Check out [www.pplace.org](http://www.pplace.org) for more information and resources, including our *Bulletin* and *Pointers* series.



## PARENTS PLACE PARENTS LEARNING ABOUT CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Parents' PLACE is the Massachusetts Statewide Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC). It is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Grant #U310A060075. The views and opinions expressed in *Parents' PLACE Pointers* do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Education. Permission is granted to copy or reprint this newsletter, or any portion of it, with the exception of articles we have reprinted with permission. Please credit *Parents' PLACE Pointers*, the Federation for Children with Special Needs, and original author if indicated.

© 2005, Federation for Children with Special Needs. 0107

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
BOSTON, MA  
PERMIT NO.  
50539

Parents' PLACE  
Federation for Children  
with Special Needs  
1135 Tremont Street, Ste. 420  
Boston, MA 02120