

Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services Frequently Asked Questions

Definitions of Terminology:

Academic Early Warning – Schools that do not meet adequate yearly progress criteria for 2 consecutive years.

Accountability: *No Child Left Behind* holds schools and school districts accountable for results. Schools are responsible for making sure your child is learning.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) — This is the term *No Child Left Behind* uses to explain that your child's school has met state reading and math goals. Your school district's report card will let you know whether or not your child's school has made AYP.

Cooperative Agreement – Contact with neighboring districts to see if they are willing to accept transfer students.

Low-Income – Students who receive free/reduced lunch.

School Choice - Under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), if a Title I school does not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two years in a row, it is said to be “in need of improvement,” and it must offer parents public school choice. Such schools must continue to offer school choice each year until they make AYP for two years in a row. Implementing this NCLB requirement depends on the availability of other schools in the district that are making AYP and their capacity to add students to their enrollment.

School in Status – Schools identified as needing improvement according to AYP specifications.

Supplemental Educational Services (SES) — This is the term *No Child Left Behind* uses to refer to the tutoring and extra help with schoolwork in subjects such as reading and math that children from low-income families may be eligible to receive. This help is provided free of charge and generally takes place outside the regular school day, such as after school or during the summer.

Title I — This is the part of *No Child Left Behind* that supports programs in schools and school districts to improve the learning of children from low-income families. The U.S. Department of Education provides Title I funds to states to give to school districts based on the number of children from low-income families in each district.

School in Need of Improvement — This is the term *No Child Left Behind* uses to refer to schools receiving Title I funds that have not met state reading and math goals (AYP) for at least two years. If your child's school is labeled a "school in need of improvement," it receives extra help to improve and your child has the option to transfer to another public school, including a public charter school. Also, your child may be eligible to receive free tutoring and extra help with schoolwork.

❖ **How is Sykuta School's Adequate Yearly Progress determined?**

Currently, for Title I schools only where the highest grade is grade 2, grade 2 student assessment scores depend on the student achievement scores of the school where grade 3 is included. Sykuta's AYP status depends on how well the 3rd grade students at Meadowview School perform on the ISAT.

❖ **When are children eligible for school choice?**

Children are eligible for school choice when the Title I school they attend has not made adequate yearly progress (AYP) in improving student achievement --- as defined by the state -- for two consecutive years or longer and is therefore identified as needing improvement, corrective action or restructuring. Any child attending such a school must be offered the option of transferring to a public school in the district -- including a public charter school -- not identified for school improvement, unless such an option is prohibited by state law. *No Child Left Behind* requires that priority in providing school choice be given to the lowest achieving children from low-income families.

❖ **What action can parents take if their school or district cannot offer school choice to their child who is eligible?**

The law requires that a district attempt to enter into a cooperative agreement with other districts whose schools have not been identified as in need of improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. This would allow students to transfer into the other district's schools. When other districts decline to enter into such an agreement, Supplemental Educational Services (SES) can be offered as an option.

❖ **What are Supplemental Educational Services?**

Supplemental Education Services are additional academic instruction designed to increase the academic achievement of students in schools that have not met State targets for increasing student achievement (AYP) for three or more years. Sykuta can offer SES due to the school choice option not being feasible. These services may include tutoring and after-school services. They may be offered through public -- or private sector providers that are approved by the state.

❖ **When are children eligible to receive SES?**

Students from low-income families who remain in Title I schools that fail to meet state standards for at least three year are eligible.

❖ **Can parents choose providers for tutoring and other supplemental educational services?**

Yes, parents of eligible children can choose from a state approved list of providers for the district. An SES Providers Fair will be held in October. Parents of eligible students will receive a letter notifying you of your child's eligibility and an invitation to attend the Fair. You will be able to meet with the providers and determine which provider would best fit the needs of the child. Once selections have been made, the assistant superintendent's office must secure a contract with the provider to deliver services.

❖ **How are providers of SES held accountable?**

SES providers must give to parents, as well as to the school, information on their children's progress. Reports of dissatisfaction of any provider will be made to the Illinois State Board of Education.

Please contact Dr. Karen Jones (957-6200) should you have further questions.