



School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services: An Information Brief for Parents

No Child Left Behind, or NCLB, is the current version of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Title I is a section of NCLB. Under Title I, schools that don't meet state targets for increasing student achievement (adequate yearly progress) for two or more years must offer specific options to families. After two or more years, students are eligible for school choice. After three or more years, the school must provide extra help (supplemental education services) to students.

School Choice

If a school does not meet state improvement targets for two years, it goes on the "school improvement" list. According to Title I, it must take several steps.

Notify parents. Parents of all children at the school must be informed of the school's status. The district, or local education agency, will send information directly to the parents, usually by regular mail or e-mail. The information must also be available through other means, such as the state, district, and/or school Web site; the media, which may include local television stations and newspapers; and other public agencies that serve students and their families.

Develop a school improvement plan. Under the school improvement requirements, the school must create an improvement plan. Parents must be consulted when this plan is developed.

Offer public school choice. The district must give parents the choice of transferring their children to another public school that has not been identified for improvement. The district will give priority to the lowest achieving students who are from low-income families. In addition, transportation must be provided for any students who transfer.

Post Office Box 1348 • Charleston, WV 25325-1348
Phone 800.624.9120 or 304.347.0400 • Fax 304.347.0489
www.edvantia.org

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Supplemental Educational Services

If a school does not meet state improvement targets for three or more years, it must offer supplemental services.

Notify parents. When the state identifies a school that must provide supplemental services, the district office notifies parents. Notice must be given each year, and parents should be told what services are available and which providers are approved. If no services are offered, parents should contact the West Virginia Department of Education at 800.642.8541.

Extra academic assistance. Low-income students who need extra academic help must have a chance to get that help outside regular school hours. The help must be related to academics and may be in the form of tutoring and after-school services. The help will be paid for with Title I funds, so eligible families do not pay extra.

Sources of extra help. Sometimes people from outside the school will provide supplemental services, and sometimes the teachers will be paid to work extra hours to help students. The state must approve all public- and private-sector providers. It must keep a list of these providers, organized by school district, so parents can choose who will help their children. The district uses its Title I funds to contract with the provider to deliver the services. The West Virginia Department of Education has a list of approved providers on its Web site at http://wvde.state.wv.us/titlei/documents/SESProviderList2007-2008_000.doc.

Get More Information

West Virginia Department of Education Web Site: <http://wvde.state.wv.us>

U.S. Department of Education Web Site: www.ed.gov/nclb/choice/help/ses/description.html

For more information about our services, contact West Virginia Parent Connections.

Anita Deck

Project Director and Southern Regional Resource Partner

anita.deck@edvantia.org

800.624.9120 ext. 5478 or 304.347.0478

Teddi Cox, Ed.D.

Eastern Regional Resource Partner

304.698.4950

teddi.cox@edvantia.org

Amanda Harsh

Northern Regional Resource Partner

304.368.1544

amanda.harsh@edvantia.org

Visit our Web site at <http://wvpc.edvantia.org>.

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