



## Parents/Guardians Guide

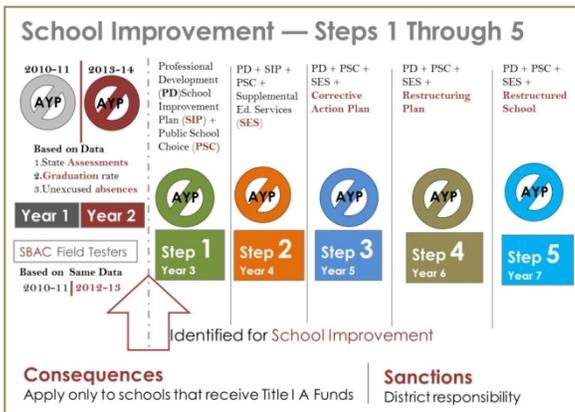
# School Improvement & Supplemental Educational Services in Title I, Part A Programs

Your child's school receives funding through the federal Title I, Part A Program. These funds help to expand our basic educational programs with services and interventions that support struggling learners. Title I, Part A is one of many programs governed by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or ESEA.

ESEA sets a standard for state, district and school accountability, and directs public schools that receive Title I, Part funds to reach 100% proficiency: *all students reach state academic standards in math and reading*. Under ESEA, schools, whose students have taken the state assessments and have not met these standards—two years in a row—must begin a program of *improvement* in the next school year. 100% means just that. Even if one student does not reach standard in either math or reading, the school must enter improvement. There are five steps to a school improvement program.

### Stay in Touch with Your School & District

Schools and districts apply the regulations around school improvement in ways that address the unique challenges and opportunities of student demographics and locality. This is why you should stay in close contact with your children's school.



Make sure you are clear on your options, specifically those around Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services. We explain Public School Choice in a companion brochure—*Parents' Guide Public School Choice & School Improvement*.

### School Improvement & Supplemental Educational Services (SES)

Schools in improvement must meet specific requirements for communication with parents and guardians, and offer programs and services that support students who struggle to reach standard on state

tests in math and reading. Your child's school is now in a Step of improvement that calls for Supplemental Educational Services or SES. This means that the district must offer extra teaching and learning opportunities—Supplemental Educational Services—designed to increase academic achievement.

The tutoring services available through SES focus on reading, language arts and math. This important remedial help takes place before or after school, or on weekends. Be aware that parents must provide transportation to-and-from the SES provider's location.

### Eligible Students

When a school enters improvement, SES becomes available in Steps 2 through 5. The law directs districts to offer SES as an option for those students whose families qualify as low income and whose test results show the most need for extra academic help.

### SES Providers

Many different kinds of organizations apply to become providers of Supplemental Educational Services: public and private schools, public and private colleges and universities, and organizations that operate for-profit, not-for-profit and as faith-based. Organizations that provide online learning also apply to become providers of SES. Approval is for one year only. SES providers must re-apply annually. OSPI publishes the list online, <http://www.k12.wa.us/TitleI/ses.aspx>.

Potential providers submit their application to OSPI. Our state has established rigorous criteria for approval that makes sure the people who tutor your child can help their academic performance.

1. Providers must use instructional methods demonstrated *over time and through research* to improve academic performance.
2. Providers must have an established track record for raising student test scores.
3. Providers must align their curricula to state standards.
4. Providers must offer learning activities consistent with district and school educational programs.



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### School Improvement & Supplemental Educational Services in Title I, Part A Programs

#### Parents/Guardians Choose an SES Provider

You know your child best. This is why the law allows parents and guardians to select the provider they feel will help their student improve in math or reading or both.

#### Get Involved. Talk to School Staff & Potential SES Providers

Feel free to talk with your child's teacher and school administrators about Supplemental Educational Services. Don't hesitate to speak directly with potential SES providers.

Ask these questions of the SES provider before you make your selection.

- How will you meet the academic needs of my child?
- What are the qualifications of your tutors?
- How will you group my child during tutoring sessions?
- How will you measure my child's progress?
- When and where do you deliver these services?
- How often, and for how long, will my child receive SES?

#### Stay Involved

Once you have selected a provider, stay involved—monitor your child's progress and keep asking questions. Expect to receive regular reports from the SES provider that explain clearly how your child is progressing.

#### Expect These Notifications from Your School District

If your household qualifies as low income, the district must send you information—often called notifications—about supplemental education services. These notifications must be in a format you can read easily and in a language you can understand. Here's the basic information you need.

- List of state-approved SES providers that operate within the district's boundaries, or provide an online learning program
- Services and qualifications of each provider
- Process you must follow to select an SES provider and the deadline for selection
- Contact names and details so you can ask questions or get more information

These notifications must be clear and concise. You should be able to distinguish them clearly from other information the school or districts sends home that talks about school improvement. If you don't receive this information, contact your school or district.

#### Report Card for Every Student

You have a right to know how well your child is progressing. Schools that operate Title I, Part A programs must generate a report card for every student that explains how well that student scored on the state assessment in, at least, reading, English language arts and mathematics.

#### State Report Card

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction—Washington's education agency—publishes a State Report Card online, <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx?year=2012-13>. Use this website to find important information about your school and district, such as the results of state testing, enrollment numbers, facts and figures about the teachers in your school and much more.

#### Ask Us About School Improvement & SES in Title I, Part A Programs

Title I, Part A Office at OSPI, 360-725-6100, online at [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us)

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