



Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Conference Call Notes

Participants: SES Providers and MSDE SES Staff

When: December 17, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Lead by: Dr. Mary Cross, SES Coordinator and Geri Taylor Lawrence, SES and Title I Specialist, Program Improvement and Family Support Branch, Division of Student, Family and School Support, Maryland State Department of Education.

Providers in attendance:

Participant	Company
TamuThomas Walker	Achieve Success Tutoring
Ms. Perez	Huntington
Ms. Sensini	Learn It Systems
Eric Martinez	Club Z
Riche Holmes Grant	Innovative Study Techniques
Taisha Burgess	Newton Learning
Lurine Kunschman	Baltimore Curriculum Project
Ricardo Burns	HigherSchool
Ms. Stokes	Alternatives Unlimited
Molly Bennett	Arline
Marcia Daniels Marcellus	PowerCommunicators
Tewon Stevens	NESI
Bob Grammar	Princeton Review
Yvette Butler	GapBuster
Charles Brown	Healthy Families
Alicia White	Educate Online

Topics:

- 1) The outcomes of decisions made regarding the drafting of student work plans.
- 2) The procedures for MSDE site visit monitoring of providers, documentation required of providers during monitoring, and the revised site visit forms.
- 3) Highlights of the amended U. S. Department of Education NCLB regulations on SES*, especially as they relate to:
 - New parent notification deadline
 - New parent outreach allocation

- State web site information requirements
- Publishing standards and techniques for monitoring the quality of services, for withdrawing approval of providers that, after two years of service, do not contribute to increased achievement of their students, and for monitoring LEAs.
- New issues that must be considered in the selection process for new providers and those that are re-applying.

4.) Open discussion on a number of issues that were primarily Local Education Agency ones. They included-

A. On what basis does school staff decide whether or not providers will be permitted to serve in their school?

Some providers are being told by school staff that they cannot serve in a school, even when there is only one other provider serving in that same school. Providers were reminded that a primary goal of the SES program is give parents a range of choices and that the intent is that parents make the ultimate choice of providers that they believe will meet their children’s needs, not the schools. LEAs are expected to have policies that are applied fairly and objectively regarding allowing providers to serve in schools.

B. Some providers mentioned that some schools are only permitting providers who have a minimum number of students to use school facilities for SES services.

Providers were encouraged to work with their LEAs and to get the LEAs policies on the use of school facilities for SES to address these problems. They were informed that if they could not come to a satisfactory solution, they may have to consider using the LEAs complaint procedures.

C. One provider is unable to arrange for their SES students who are on free and reduced meals to be given snacks.

It was recommended that the provider address this with the relevant LEA.

D. Two providers indicated that they have found it difficult to have parents who want to switch their children’s provider to get that change made through the LEA.

We informed the providers that parents should be given the option to change. MSDE recently began to require LEAS to show their written policies on how parents select and change providers. All LEAs that offer SES should have written policies for parents on how they can change providers. MSDE will request these policies and make sure they are available to the general public.

*Providers are welcome to review the newly amended US Department of Education regulations on No Child Left Behind. Any issue in the regulations that providers would like to discuss in terms of MSDE implementation should be submitted to Mary Cross at mcross@msde.state.md.us and to Tierra Lisbon at tlibson@msde.state.md.us. We will discuss these issues at the next Provider Conference Call. More general questions about the regulations that need immediate attention should be forwarded to the US Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement.