



Columbia Public Schools

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Dr. Peter Stiepleman
Assistant Superintendent

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Free Tutoring for Students Receiving Free and Reduced Price Meals!

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Columbia Public School District is dedicated to helping your child succeed both in school and in life. Your child may qualify for tutoring in reading or math, **at no cost to you**, from an outside organization/provider.

This tutoring is called Supplemental Educational Services, or SES. Under the federal law called No Child Left Behind, Title I schools not meeting specified achievement levels on the state MAP test for two or more consecutive years are designated as being in "school improvement." A school that remains in school improvement for two or more years offers its **students qualifying for free and reduced price meals** the opportunity to receive SES.

A list of companies that provide tutoring is included in this mailing. An enrollment form is also included and parents may complete and return it to the main office of their child's school. Tutoring forms are due **Friday, January 21, 2011**.

Priority is given to eligible students who have not participated in SES tutoring this school year. If more tutoring requests are received than can be accommodated, a selection process will be utilized. You will be notified of your child's tutoring status.

Please contact your school's principal if you have questions about SES tutoring.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter Stiepleman
Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education

Enclosures: MO Approved Provider Summary List
Provider Selection Form

Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Frequently Asked Questions 2010-2011

Columbia Public Schools offers SES tutoring at no cost to you to **eligible students receiving free and reduced price meals and who attend a Title I school designated as in improvement**. SES tutoring is offered to help eligible students improve their reading or math skills. The following questions and answers may help you understand more about SES.

1. When are Supplemental Educational Services (SES) provided?

SES tutoring sessions are provided **outside** the regular school day. After school is the most common time for SES. However, sessions could take place before school, on weekends, or in the summer.

2. Who can receive SES?

Under federal law, **only students qualifying for free and reduced price meals attending a Title I schools designated as in improvement** are eligible for SES. If we cannot provide SES for all interested families, the lowest achieving students receive priority.

3. Who does the tutoring?

Organizations apply to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to be a provider. After a selection process, the state keeps a list of approved SES tutoring providers. Enclosed is a list of current providers serving our area with brief summaries of their services.

4. Who pays for the tutoring?

The school district pays for the tutoring.

5. Who decides on which SES provider my student will have?

Parents choose from the state's list of approved providers, but an agreement must be signed by all parties: parents, provider, and school district.

6. When does the tutoring begin?

Tutoring begins as soon as possible in the second semester after the agreement is signed by all parties.

7. Where are tutoring sessions held?

Location depends upon the provider chosen. Many companies provide services at the school.

8. How often and for how many hours will my student be tutored?

Each student will receive an average of 24 – 30 hours of tutoring during the school year depending on the fees charged by the provider that the parent requests. Tutoring is usually held 2 - 4 times per week.

9. Is transportation provided?

The district provides bus transportation for students participating in SES tutoring sessions held at the school.

10. Can these tutors help a student who has disabilities or is learning English?

Some providers have tutors specially trained to work with students who have disabilities or students who are learning English.