PEATC is Virginia’s parent information and resource center promoting research-based parent involvement practices and strengthening partnerships between parents, schools and communities. This fact sheet is to help families and others understand School Choice as it pertains to the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

**Description of Supplemental Educational Services**

Low-income families can enroll their children in supplemental educational services if the child attends a Title I school that has been designated by the state to be in need of improvement for more than one year. The term "supplemental educational services" refers to free extra academic help, such as tutoring or remedial help, that is provided to students in subjects such as reading, language arts, and math. This extra help can be provided before or after school, on weekends, or in the summer.

Each State Education Agency is required to identify organizations that qualify to provide these services. Districts must make a list available to parents of state-approved supplemental educational services providers in the area and must let parents choose the provider that will best meet the educational needs of the child.

Providers of supplemental educational services may include nonprofit entities, for-profit entities, local educational agencies, public schools, public charter schools, private schools, public or private institutions of higher education, and faith-based organizations. Entities that would like to be included on the list of eligible providers must contact their state education agency and meet the criteria established by the state to be considered for the list of eligible providers.

**When are children eligible to receive supplemental educational services?**

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

**Are parents notified about supplemental educational services?**

Yes. Local education agencies are required to provide annual notice to parents of eligible children about the availability of services and information on the approved providers.

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

Yes, parents of eligible children can choose from the list of state-approved providers. Most states have approved a diverse list of providers, as mentioned above. Upon request, the local...
education agency will help parents determine which provider would best fit their child's needs. When parents have made their selection, the local education agency must then contract with that provider to deliver the services.

What action can parents take if their child is eligible for tutoring or other supplemental educational services, but their school or district does not offer them?

Districts receiving Title I funds must offer free tutoring and other extra help to eligible students, as described above. If eligible students are not being offered these services, parents are encouraged to contact their state department of education.

How are providers of supplemental educational services held accountable?

States must develop and apply objective criteria for evaluating providers and monitor the quality of services that they offer. In addition, supplemental services providers must give to parents, as well as to the school, information on their children's progress.

US Department of Education

http://www2.ed.gov/parents/schools/choice/choice.html#6

Virginia Department of Education

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/federal_programs/esea/title1/part_a/supplimental_ed_services/