



Did You Know...?

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Free Tutoring Services for Your Child

Under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), parents and guardians have new options if your child's school qualifies as a school that needs to improve student achievement. Your child may be eligible for free tutoring or extra help in the academic subject areas of *reading and mathematics*. These tutoring services are provided outside the regular school day (before or after school) and they are *free* for children in *qualifying schools*.

How Will I Know If My Child is Eligible?

Title I schools that have been placed on the State's in need of improvement list for two or more years must offer and inform all parents of eligible children of these services. Students whose families meet certain income criteria receive priority.



Can We Ask for Tutoring Anytime?

No. There is a specific enrollment period to apply for tutoring services. It must be offered at the beginning of the school year after a school has been determined to be "in need of improvement". The services will begin approximately six weeks after school begins. Schools send letters to notify parents of free tutoring and families have at least four weeks from that date to choose services and a provider.

How Will I Find a Qualified Tutor?

School district are required to notify parents of children attending a school that has failed to meet Adequate Yearly Progress and has been determined to be "in need of improvement". (For more information about Adequate Yearly Progress, please see Did You Know fact sheets #14 and #16.) The school principal will notify you of the timeframe for applying for free tutoring services and provide you with a list of organizations and tutors that have been approved by the New Mexico Public Education Department to provide services to your child. YOU are free to choose any provider on the list. The list may include churches, nonprofit, organizations, private tutors, and others. The list you receive from the school district should include information, such as the providers' qualifications and their effectiveness.

Ask your child's teacher or school principal to review your child's progress and testing results with you so that you know the specific areas that will eligible for tutoring services. Before you choose a provider, it would be a good idea for you to talk to a few of them and ask questions about how they will help your child. Think about how your child learns and what works best for your child. Find out how the tutor plans to teach the subjects that your child needs the most help with.

Who Will Pay for the Tutoring Services for My Child?

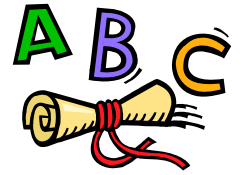
When the family follows the guidelines provided by the school district and selects a provider from the State approved list, the district will pay the provider directly. The list of providers is designed to ensure that students are offered services that help them achieve at higher levels in reading and mathematics. It includes the maximum number of providers to give parents as many choices as possible.

Are There Certain Questions I Should Ask When Interviewing a Tutor?

YES. Ask that the information be given to you in writing so that you have it for future reference. You may also request an interpreter to translate the information into the language you use in your home. Asking “the right questions” will help you get specific information and may help to open discussions about possibilities.

Here are some examples of questions that you might want to ask:

- What is the tutor’s background?
- What scientific program will the tutor use to teach my child the needed skill?
- How will you measure my child’s success? What will success look like?
- How often will progress be reported to my family and my child’s school?



Will the Tutor Help My Child with Homework?

Schools will only provide tutoring in the areas of math and reading through this program. Tutors paid by this program through the schools do not provide assistances with homework.

What Happens After I Have Chosen a Tutor?

When YOU have chosen the provider, you will need to notify the school about your choice. You will want set up a meeting with your child, the provider, and school district staff to discuss and agree upon specific goals for your child. During this meeting you will set up a schedule for services; decide how your child progress will be measured (progress report) and set a timelines. You will also discuss when services will start, location of services, and goals of the tutoring.

What are the Benefits of the Tutoring Program?

- Cost effective way to improve student achievement
- Student Success: Students have better attendance at school and higher grades over all.
- Parent Involvement: Schools and parents work as partners for a child’s academic achievement.
- Students have more positive attitude toward school and show higher self-esteem at all levels.
- Builds better communication skills between parents, students, teachers and school.
- Helps the school make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

How Can I Get Information About the Tutoring Program?

You can request the information from your child’s school principal or the District Superintendent’s office. If you need more information, please contact the New Mexico Public Education Department at 505-827-5800. Ask for Title I and the receptionist will direct you to the right consultant to help you.

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