

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (SES): FREE TUTORING
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Q&A)

1. What is Supplemental Educational Services (SES) tutoring?

Supplemental Educational Services (SES) is an initiative set out by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law that provides free additional academic instruction (tutoring) intended to increase the academic achievement of students in schools that have failed to meet certain academic benchmarks. SES tutoring services may include one-on-one or small group instruction by a private tutor as well as other educational programs. These services must be provided outside the regular school day, be of high quality, and be research based.

2. How do I know if my child qualifies for SES tutoring?

Eligible students for SES tutoring are those who qualify for free or reduced price meals and who attend Title I schools that have not met certain NCLB academic benchmarks for two or more years, placing them in Title I School Improvement status. If you are not sure if your child qualifies, contact your school for details on the National School Lunch Program.

3. How will I find out about SES tutoring?

Two times per year, FCPS notifies parents of eligible students in writing about the availability of services and the application process including:

- names of approved SES tutoring providers for FCPS
- the subject areas and location of services for each provider
- a brief description of the services offered by each provider
- the approximate number of hours each provider offers
- evidence of effectiveness of each provider
- how to get more information about SES tutoring

4. How can I learn more about the options available for SES tutoring?

SES family events will be held during the fall and winter so parents can learn about the services offered by SES tutoring providers and have an opportunity to talk directly with FCPS staff about the services available. You are encouraged to attend one of these SES family events at the location that works best for you. You may also receive additional information by asking at your school and by reviewing the information included in the mailings from FCPS.

5. How can I know which SES tutoring provider to choose for my child?

Parents may choose any SES tutoring provider from the state-approved list who has agreed to serve FCPS. Parents are asked to indicate three provider choices on their application form to ensure each child can be matched with an authorized provider. When parents ask, FCPS will assist them in selecting appropriate SES tutoring providers for their child. The SES facilitator and parent liaison at your school, as well as your child's teacher, can help you match your child with SES tutoring services that can support his or her academic growth. The following questions may guide your thinking and your conversations with SES tutoring providers and staff from your child's school:

- In which subject does my child need the most support or enrichment?
- Where and when would I like my child's tutoring to take place? Do I need bus transportation?
- What tutoring group size will help my child learn best (number of students per tutor)?
- How many hours of tutoring will my child receive with each company I am considering?
- What are the qualifications of the tutors for each company I am considering?

6. Why do different SES tutoring providers offer different numbers of hours for their services?

Each year, VDOE sets an amount that may be spent for each child's SES tutoring services. Because SES tutoring providers charge different hourly rates for their services, the VDOE amount allows for more hours from some providers than from others. The number of hours for tutoring is just one question to take into account when choosing which SES tutoring provider will be best for your child. The type and quality of the services is also important to consider when making your choices.

SES Free Tutoring, Frequently Asked Questions, cont.

7. How are SES tutoring providers paid?

FCPS will pay for the SES tutoring out of designated federal funds **at no cost to families of eligible students.**

8. Will bus transportation be provided for SES tutoring services?

FCPS will provide bus transportation to the SES tutoring sessions held on Saturday mornings at your child's school. No transportation will be provided to SES tutoring sessions at other locations.

9. What is the role of parents in the SES tutoring process?

Parents are to be active participants in this opportunity for their child.

- Parents must choose three (3) top choices for SES tutoring companies from the FCPS list of state-approved providers serving FCPS.
- Parents must choose which academic subject will be the focus for their child's tutoring.
- Parents must work with the school and the provider to identify achievement goals for their child and establish a learning plan to address the identified goals (Tutor and Parent Agreement).
- Parents must ensure that their child attends the sessions in which they are enrolled.
- Parents must provide transportation for services if the services are in a location other than the local school or in the home.

10. How will parents and teachers receive updates on student progress as part of SES tutoring?

A method for informing parents and the child's teacher about the child's progress will be established in the agreement among the parent, the provider, and FCPS (Tutor and Parent Agreement). The SES tutoring provider will share progress updates with parents and FCPS at least monthly.

11. How are SES tutoring providers identified and approved?

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has developed criteria for approving SES tutoring providers. The full list of approved providers is published on the VDOE web site:

<https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/ses/index.jsp>. All SES tutoring providers who say they are willing to serve FCPS are invited to enter a service contract with FCPS. The resulting list is available at your child's school, can be found on the FCPS web site at <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/SES/>, and is sent in the mailing to eligible families twice a year.

12. Who ensures that SES tutoring providers deliver high-quality and effective services?

The Virginia Department of Education has the responsibility to ensure that high quality SES tutoring services are delivered. A facilitator at each SES school monitors Saturday morning services and supports communication between the SES tutoring provider and the child's classroom teacher.

13. Will all eligible children receive SES tutoring?

FCPS anticipates that it will have enough funding to provide SES tutoring for all eligible students this year. If the federal funds available are insufficient to provide the services to each eligible student, FCPS will give priority to the lowest-achieving eligible students in the subject area (reading, mathematics or science) in which the school did not make adequate yearly progress.

14. For how long will our school offer SES tutoring?

Each year SES tutoring starts in the fall and continues into mid-May for eligible students at SES schools. According to the NCLB act of 2001, a school must continue to offer SES tutoring to their eligible students each year until the school exits Title I School Improvement status or no longer receives Title I funding.

15. What is the deadline for applying for SES tutoring?

Parents are encouraged to apply as soon as possible for SES tutoring so their child can get the full benefit of this free tutoring service. FCPS continues to accept application forms throughout the year for as long as students have time to complete their tutoring plans. Generally, applications need to be received by mid-April to allow for this.