

Supplemental Educational Services Web cast

Ray Simon

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Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education,
U.S. Department of Education

Ray SIMON, Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education

I'm Ray Simon, Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education. I want to thank you for taking part of your day to join us on this web cast. We've heard today from individuals who are actually practicing what we have been advocating since the beginning of No Child Left Behind. And that is, having a system of supplementary services for children that actually work, and that reach the very children for whom this law was intended.

Many of our children deserve, and need, extra time and attention in order to meet the goals that we set for them. You heard today from some practitioners, individuals who have made this work in their schools districts. That's extremely important as we transition from a theoretical framework to a framework of actually working with children. We need partners in this attempt to give extra time and attention to our children. Supplemental Services is about involving other partners outside the school. The more attention and the more individuals and groups that pay attention and are concerned about what our children learn, the more likely it is that these projects will be successful, and that our children will indeed achieve the standards we've set for them.

The spirit of No Child says that every child deserves a chance to be the very best—that the classroom teacher, that the experiences that these children have in the classroom, these are what really matter. Supplemental Services represent the single best hope for many of our children that simply need more time and more attention to get at grade level. So the practitioners that you've heard from today offer a very keen insight into how we can really make this necessary component of No Child Left Behind work.

Please know that the Department of Education, and specifically the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, stand ready to assist you in any way we can to help with this very vital component. We look forward to more discussions on how we can help No Child Left Behind work in spirit, as well as in letter. Thanks again for joining us, and I look forward to seeing you soon.