

**Appendix: SES Pilot Proposals:
Offering SES to Title I Schools in Year One of Improvement**

Process

- ***Which LEAs are eligible for this flexibility?*** A State that meets the required criteria may apply for this flexibility on behalf of up to seven qualifying LEAs in its State, of which at least two should be rural LEAs. Participating LEAs must have issued timely public choice and SES notification letters to parents over the past two years and should be located throughout the State. A State may propose to include an LEA in need of improvement. However, an LEA in need of improvement that participates in this pilot is not eligible to apply to become an SES provider itself.
- ***What should a State include in its proposal?*** A State must submit an application if it desires to receive flexibility on behalf of one or more LEAs to offer SES to eligible students attending Title I schools that are in their first year of improvement. A State should clearly and concisely provide a justification for this flexibility and a description of how the State currently meets and will continue to meet the criteria for the pilot. A State must also identify and justify its proposed participating LEAs (and schools, if known). A State submitting a proposal should send it electronically to SESPilot@ed.gov.
- ***When should a State submit its proposal?*** A State that wishes to participate in this flexibility for the 2007-08 year must submit its proposal to the Department by **Wednesday, June 20**. Note that only States, and not LEAs, may apply directly to the Department for this flexibility.
- ***What is the approval process?*** Upon receipt of a flexibility proposal, the Department will review it to determine the extent to which a State and its proposed LEAs meet the criteria for participation. If the proposal is satisfactory, the Department will issue a letter to the State outlining the terms of the flexibility agreement.
- ***How long is this flexibility in effect?*** The agreement will be in effect during the 2007-08 school year only. At the end of that year, the Department will evaluate whether to continue the agreement into future school years.

Conditions for Participation in the Pilot

A State and its LEAs, once approved to participate in the pilot, must meet the following conditions:

- The State must provide the Department with a report on and explanation of trends in participation levels in SES and public school choice within the participating LEAs.
- The State must provide parents in pilot LEAs access to a variety of SES providers, as demonstrated by the following:
 1. Maintaining a comprehensive list of SES providers (e.g. nonprofit, for-profit, faith- and community-based, online).
 2. Ensuring that at least two providers from which parents may choose are available in each pilot LEA.
 3. Providing information to parents in pilot LEAs on school performance and student eligibility for, and enrollment in, public school choice and SES that is clear, accurate, and easily accessible, in languages parents can understand. The State may want to develop model parental notification letters and standard forms for enrolling students in choice and SES.
 4. Ensuring that pilot LEAs provide fair and equitable treatment of non-LEA providers by giving providers access to school facilities at a reasonable price and dividing space among providers in a fair manner.
 5. Ensuring that pilot LEAs allow providers to market their services to parents and work with community and business partners to reach out to parents and provide them with information on their options.
- The State must require pilot LEAs to notify eligible parents about SES prior to the start of the school year, or within the first few weeks of the school year, and provide SES shortly thereafter.
- The State must require pilot LEAs to offer continuous enrollment in SES or multiple SES enrollment periods throughout the 2007-08 school year until each pilot LEA spends the 20 percent required by Title I or all students who request SES and choice are served.
- The State must submit complete and accurate public school choice and SES data to the U.S. Department of Education via the Educational Data Exchange Network (EDEN) for the 2006-07 school year by the end of October 2007, and for the 2007-08 school year by the end of October 2008.
- The State must submit to the Department two reports on how it met the terms of its flexibility agreement under this pilot due January 1, 2008, and June 30, 2008.