



# **NATE ROGERS SPEECH LANGUAGE THERAPY SCHOLARSHIP**

GUIDANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

# Guidance for Public Schools

## 1. Adopt a policy to include:

- a. All students are screened for articulation, language, voice, and fluency disorders before the end of Grade 1.
- b. If a student fails the screener, the parent or legal guardian will be notified of the results of the screener.
- c. If a student fails the screener, the school district, in its discretion, may perform a comprehensive speech language evaluation.
- d. If the parent or legal guardian of a student who fails the speech language screener elects to have a private evaluation performed, which must be administered by a speech language pathologist, the school district shall consider the evaluation for eligibility in the area of speech language in accordance with the procedures mandated by the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for a services through an IEP within the current school or to receive a Mississippi speech language therapy scholarship for possible equitable speech language services through a services plan in a nonpublic special purpose school.
- e. If a student within the school district elects to participate in the Speech language Scholarship Program, the district must verify the enrollment dates of the student to the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Special Education.
- f. Parents must be given the opportunity to opt out of the screening process.

## 2. Students receiving the Nate Rogers scholarship are entitled to equitable access to services (service plan) through IDEA private school proportionate share funded activities.

- a. The district where the private school is located is responsible for the provision of proportionate share funded activities.
- b. Students receiving the Nate Rogers Speech Language Therapy Scholarship should be included in the private school child count of the public school district where the private school is located.
- c. Parents have the right to refuse services provided to their child who is parentally placed in private schools.

