



NATE ROGERS SPEECH LANGUAGE THERAPY SCHOLARSHIP

Questions & Answers



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Who is eligible?

Students in kindergarten through Grade 6 or its equivalent (age 11) with a primary IDEA eligibility of speech language impairment are eligible to receive scholarship assistance.

2. Can the Speech Language Therapy Scholarship be used for students in grades 8 and above?

No. The scholarship is only available to students in kindergarten through Grade 6 or its equivalent (age 11).

3. Can all students who have an IDEA eligibility receive a Speech Language Therapy Scholarship?

No. Only students with a primary IDEA eligibility of speech language impairment are eligible to receive scholarship assistance.

4. Which students are NOT eligible for the Speech Language Therapy Scholarship?

Students who are not enrolled and attend an accredited non-public school in person are not eligible for the scholarship.

5. Does the student have to participate in the non-public school program for the whole school year?

Yes. Any student participating in the Mississippi Speech Language Therapy Scholarship must remain in attendance throughout the school year unless excused by the school for illness or other good cause.

6. Who will receive the tuition reimbursement?

The Mississippi Department of Education will make payments to the approved, accredited non-public school for each student that has been awarded the scholarship.

7. How are Speech Language Therapy Scholarship funds calculated?

Funds are calculated based on student base cost as appropriated.

8. Can private schools apply to receive Speech Language Therapy Scholarship funds for eligible students?

Yes. Please see *Guidance for Special Non-Public Schools*.

9. Can a 504 student receive a scholarship?

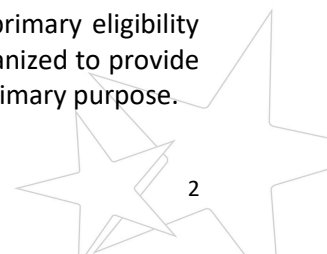
A student that has a 504 plan can receive a scholarship as long as the student meets the eligibility criteria for the scholarship.

10. If a student fails the speech language screener, is the school required to conduct a comprehensive speech evaluation?

No. The school district, at its discretion, may conduct a comprehensive speech evaluation.

11. Can a public school district place students at the non-public school and receive the scholarship for those students?

No. The scholarship is an option offered to parents of students with an IDEA primary eligibility speech/language impairment to attend a non-public school of choice that is organized to provide and emphasizes instruction in speech language therapy and intervention as its primary purpose.



12. Do students who attend the non-public school require an Individualized Education Program (IEP)?

No. Students that are parentally placed in a private school do not have an IEP. However, students with disabilities placed by their parents in private schools participating in the Speech Language Therapy Scholarship are included in the group of parentally placed private school children with disabilities who are eligible for equitable services including special education and related services from the public school district where the private school is located.

13. What IDEA requirements apply to students receiving the scholarship that are parentally placed in a non-public school?

- School Districts where private elementary schools and secondary schools are located must ensure that children with disabilities placed by their parents in private schools participating in the Speech Language Therapy Scholarship are included in the group of parentally placed private school children with disabilities who are eligible for equitable services including special education and related services from the public school district where the private school is located.
- The needs of these children must be considered through a consultation process between the non-public school and public school district.
- The Child Find requirements for locating, identifying, and evaluating children are fully applicable to children enrolled by their parents in private schools who participate in the scholarship program. Thus, children with disabilities enrolled by their parents in private schools who participate in the scholarship program must be included in the annual child count. The child count must be used to determine the amount of IDEA Part B funds that the school district must spend on providing special education and related services to children with disabilities enrolled by their parents in private schools located in the school district.
- Parentally placed private school children with disabilities attending private schools and receiving the scholarship are entitled to receive a services plan that outlines the services the school district will provide to the child. However, no parentally placed private school child with a disability has an individual right to receive some or all of the special education and related services that the child would receive if they were enrolled in a public school. Depending on discussions that occurred during the consultation process and the amount of funds generated for the proportionate share, the child may receive a different amount of services than children with disabilities in public schools.
- Even if the LEA offers to provide equitable services to the child, a parent of a parentally placed child with a disability may decline the offer of services to their child.

