

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>December 9, 2021</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Senate Bill 1716 expansion of the Supplemental Special Education Services program</b>
<b>CATEGORY:</b>	<b>Special Populations</b>
<b>NEXT STEPS:</b>	<b>Share with appropriate internal staff for review and collaboration</b>

Senate Bill (SB) 1716, passed during the 87<sup>th</sup> Regular Texas Legislative Session, 2021, establishes a supplemental, special education services (SSES) and instructional materials program for students served by special education who meet program eligibility requirements.

The Commissioner’s rule required by the bill to implement the SSES program, 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §102.1601, has been adopted and will be published in the Texas Register) to be effective December 12, 2021.

**Overview:**

Grants made under the Supplemental Special Education Services program are \$1,500 one-time online grants for parents/caregivers of eligible students served by special education that have been impacted by COVID-19 school closures. Families of eligible students can use the online accounts to obtain educational materials and resources and/or services such as additional speech therapy or other specific services.

**Expanded Eligibility:**

Senate Bill 1716 expanded SSES eligibility criteria to ALL students who are served by special education.

To be eligible for the SSES program, students must be:

- enrolled in a Texas public school;
- enrolled in PreK – 12<sup>th</sup> grade; and
- a student with a disability served through special education.

**Program Details:**

ARD Committee Responsibilities:

19 TAC §102.1601(i)(2) requires that

1. information about types of goods and services that are available to the eligible student; and
2. instructions and resources on accessing the online accounts.

A student's ARD committee must develop each student's individualized education program (IEP), including whether any compensatory services are appropriate as a result of an inability on the part of the local educational agency (LEA) to fully implement an IEP during periods of at-home learning are appropriate, without consideration of any supplemental special education services that may be provided by the SSES program.

To assist LEAs in understanding their requirements, TEA has created the [ARD Committee Flowchart](#). Additionally, to assist LEAs in complying with number 1 from above, TEA has produced optional one-page resources in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) that ARD committees could share with families. To assist LEAs in complying with number 2 from above TEA has produced an additional one-page resource in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

#### LEA Responsibilities:

LEAs must notify families of the SSES program if they have not already done so. 19 TAC §102.1601(i)(1) requires that school

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