



Nancy S. Grasmick  
State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD

October 29, 2007

Dear Provider:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has an obligation to promote participation in the provision of Supplemental Educational Services (SES) by the maximum number of approved providers. This denotes that MSDE must maintain a level playing field for all approved providers. Incentive programs, such as carnivals, raffles, pizza parties, rewards and the like that are used to promote enrollment in SES in general, and/or enrollment in a particular provider's program are prohibited. These programs are anti-competitive in nature and obviate MSDE's statutory obligation to ensure that approved providers are treated equitably and fairly in competing for SES students.

**This correspondence serves as notice that all Maryland State Department of Education approved SES providers must cease and desist distributing or advertising the awarding of incentives of any kind to teachers, parents, or students in Maryland's public school systems in an effort to enhance recruitment or encourage SES participation.**

Failure to do so will result in sanctions to providers that may include removal from the State's approved provider list, thus making existing contracts with local school systems null and void.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Carol Crouse, Education Specialist, at 410-767-0366 or email [ccrouse@msde.state.md.us](mailto:ccrouse@msde.state.md.us).

Sincerely,

Ann E. Chafin,  
Assistant State Superintendent  
Maryland State Department of Education

AEC:CC:tsl

cc: Maria E. Lamb  
Carol Crouse