

## ***SAMPLE PARENT COMMUNICATION***

*Under ESEA flexibility, local education agencies (LEAs) and charter schools in North Carolina will no longer be required to offer SES or public school choice that was required under NCLB. At the beginning of the 2012-13 school year, LEAs should provide parents with information to explain: 1) why SES and transportation for public school choice will no longer be offered if this is the school district's decision; 2) what interventions, incentives, and supports will replace those options; and 3) other relevant details regarding the termination and/or transition of existing services. This information should be provided as early as feasible so that parents may plan accordingly, and should be provided in a language and format that is understandable to parents. Below is a sample letter that may be used to communicate this information to parents. Please note that districts will need to provide additional information to adequately describe the decisions made at the local level.*

In May 2012, North Carolina was granted flexibility waivers from many of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) provisions. This flexibility, granted by the U.S. Department of Education, makes significant changes to North Carolina's implementation of Elementary and Secondary Education Act's requirements especially in the areas of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), parent notifications, public school choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES). These waivers will allow North Carolina's public school system to move forward with strengthened College- and Career-Ready expectations for all students, new ways to hold Title I schools accountable for students' academic proficiency, and new initiatives to support effective instruction and leadership.

Many of the former strict federal requirements regarding AYP and sanctions for schools that do not make AYP are no longer required statewide and are now local school district decisions. Beginning with the 2012-13 school year, [District Name] is no longer required to identify Title I schools for improvement, corrective action, and restructuring. In place of the "all or nothing" measure of AYP, the state has established Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) for all student subgroups that more fairly judge schools based on student and school progress. These targets require subgroups of students that are further behind to improve at a faster rate to close gaps in performance. Ultimately the state will be able to provide parents with a more complete picture of where a school or district is in meeting performance expectations and where it is not.

The waivers remove the requirements that districts must use federal Title I funds to offer public school choice and supplemental educational services (SES). Instead, [District Name] will be able to use Title I funds to improve student learning and increase the quality of instruction in all Title I schools.

*[The remainder of the parent letter should be customized based upon the district's decisions related to public school choice and SES. Include any transition services as well as other supplemental services that the district will provide to support struggling students.]*

If you have questions, please contact [District Contact Information]. We look forward to partnering with you in the upcoming year to ensure the academic success of all our students.