MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Speech-Language Therapy Program/ Scholarship (Nate Rogers)

GUIDANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Requirements for ALL Public Schools:

1. Adopt a policy to ensure that students will be screened for articulation, language, voice, and fluency disorders before the end of Grade 1.
2. If a student fails the screener, the parent or legal guardian will be notified of the results of the screener.
3. If a student fails the screener, the school district, in its discretion, may perform a comprehensive speech-language evaluation.
4. If the parent or legal guardian of a student who fails the speech-language screener exercises the option to have a subsequent 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 placement in a speech-language program within the current school or to receive a Mississippi speech-language therapy scholarship for placement in a speech-language program in a nonpublic special purpose school.
5. If a student from your 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.

**NOTE: If a student from your school district is awarded a Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship, Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) funds will follow the student.**

Questions related to the application process and IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) should be directed to Ms. Keisha Dixon, Office of Special Education, at 601-359-3498.