

# **SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY SCHOLARSHIP (NATE ROGERS)**

## **HOUSE BILL 896**



# AGENDA

- HOUSE BILL 896
- GUIDANCE FOR:
  - PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS
  - NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS
  - PARENTS
- NONPUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM VERIFICATION
- SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY PROGRAM/SCHOLARSHIP (NATE ROGERS) APPLICATION
- NOTIFICATION PROCESS

- SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY SCHOLARSHIP  
(Nate Rogers)
  - Established scholarships for students with speech-language impairments
  - Stipulates student eligibility requirements
  - Stipulates the obligations of the parent/legal guardians, students, nonpublic school, and public school districts
  - Requires that all compulsory-school-age children be screened for speech-language impairment before the end of 1<sup>st</sup> Grade
  - Maximum amount of the scholarship is equivalent to the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) base student cost
  - Effective July 1, 2013

# Web Page

<https://mdek12.org/OSE/funding/special-education-speech-language-therapy-scholarship>



MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

Ensuring a bright future for every child

# Public School District Guidance

- Public School Districts must:
  - adopt a policy to ensure that students will be screened for articulation, language, voice, and fluency disorders **before** the end of Grade 1
  - notify the parents if the student fails the screener
- If a student fails the screener, the school district, in its discretion, may perform a comprehensive speech-language evaluation.

- If a student fails the speech-language screener:
  - the parent/legal guardian may request an evaluation
  - the evaluation must be administered by a speech-language pathologist (215)
  - the school district shall consider the evaluation for eligibility for speech-language and either
    - Place the student within the current school **OR**
    - Suggest the Mississippi speech-language therapy scholarship for placement in a speech-language program in a nonpublic special purpose school.

- If a student from a public school district **elects** to participate in the Speech-Language Scholarship Program,
  - the district must verify the enrollment dates of the student to the Office of Special Education.



# Nonpublic School Guidance

Mississippi Department of Education  
Speech-Language Therapy Program/ Scholarship (Nate Rogers)  
School Year 2013-2014  
Nonpublic School Program Verification

*Please complete the following verification and assurances, marking an "x" beside applicable statements to verify compliance with program requirements.*

### SECTION I: NONPUBLIC SCHOOL INFORMATION

Nonpublic School: \_\_\_\_\_

Nonpublic School District (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Nonpublic School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS

CITY

ZIP

Nonpublic Principal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST

FIRST

Nonpublic Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION II: VERIFICATION OF NONPUBLIC SPECIAL PURPOSE SCHOOL STATUS

\_\_\_ Be a state accredited nonpublic special purpose school in the State that is organized to provide and emphasizes instruction in speech-language therapy and intervention as the primary purpose.

**\*\*Attach Letter of Accreditation**

### SECTION III: VERIFICATION OF PERSONNEL (LICENSURE & TRAINING)

\_\_\_ Nonpublic school employs speech-language pathologists who have met the requirements and acquired a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, or who has completed training in a department approved American Speech-Language-hearing Association based speech-language pathology training program attaining an AA (215) license in speech-language pathology.

**\*\*Complete the attached Teacher Verification Form and attach copies of licenses of certified staff.**

### SECTION IV: ASSURANCES

\_\_\_ Nonpublic School is organized to provide and emphasizes instruction in speech-language therapy and intervention as its primary purpose;

\_\_\_ Nonpublic School is providing a specific learning environment that provides comprehensive speech-language therapy instruction delivered by speech-language pathologists licensed by MDE;

\_\_\_ Nonpublic School is providing highly qualified education and intervention services to children with a primary eligibility ruling of speech-language impairment;

- \_\_\_\_ Nonpublic School is providing specialized speech-language instructional program therapy that is scientific and research-based individualized to meet the specific learning needs of each individual student;
- \_\_\_\_ Nonpublic School is using instructional approaches that include explicit, direct instruction which is systematic, sequential and cumulative, individualized to meet the specific learning needs of each individual student;
- \_\_\_\_ Nonpublic School will be academically accountable to the parent or legal guardian for meeting the educational needs of the student by, at a minimum, annually providing to the parent or legal guardian a written explanation of the student's progress; and
- \_\_\_\_ Nonpublic School maintains in the State of Mississippi a physical location where a scholarship student regularly attends classes.
- \_\_\_\_ In order to be eligible for future funding under the speech-language therapy scholarship statute, (Nate Rogers Scholarship) the school will remain in compliance with the statute requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nonpublic Principal / Director Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

- To submit an application, the nonpublic school must
  - Be accredited by MDE
    - as a nonpublic special purpose school to provide and emphasizes instruction in speech-language therapy and interventions as the primary purpose of the school and
    - provide a comprehensive speech-language instruction delivered
      - by a speech-language pathologist (215) or
      - by a person who has completed training in a department approved American Speech-language-Hearing based speech-language pathology training program attaining a AA license in speech-language pathology

- Nonpublic schools must:
  - use an appropriate specialized speech-language instructional program that is scientific and researched-based;
  - have a current School Program Verification and Assurances form on file with OSE; **and**
  - provide to MDE all documentation required for a student's participation, including the nonpublic school student's fee schedule;

- Nonpublic schools must:
  - notify OSE when a parent removes the student from the nonpublic school within ten (10) days from the date of withdrawal;
  - be academically accountable to the parent or legal guardian for meeting the educational needs of the student by, at a minimum, annually providing to the parent or legal guardian a written explanation of the student's progress;

- Nonpublic schools must:
  - maintain in the State of Mississippi a physical location where a scholarship students regularly attends classes; **and**
  - maintain a current Letter of Accreditation on file with OSE.

# Parent Guidance





# SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP (NATE ROGERS) APPLICATION

**For MDE Office Use:** Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Denied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Date Notification Sent

**Mississippi Department of Education  
 Speech-Language Therapy Program/Scholarship Application (Nate Rogers)  
 School Year 2013-2014**

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

Student Name: _____			
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE	
Student Address: _____			
ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP	
Student DOB: _____ Student Social Security Number/MSIS ID: _____ Entering Grade: _____			
mm/dd/yyyy	(if applicable)	2013-2014 School Year	
Parent/Guardian Name: _____			
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE	
Parent Address: _____			
(If different than student) ADDRESS	CITY	MIDDLE	
Email Address: _____ Phone: _____			

**PREVIOUS SCHOOL INFORMATION**

What district/school did the student attend during the 2012-2013 school year?	
District: _____	District of Residence: _____
School: _____	
Specific Dates of Enrollment: _____	
_____ Public _____ Non-Public	

What Nonpublic school does the student plan to attend during the 2013-2014 school year?
School: _____
Address: _____

**NONPUBLIC SCHOOL INFORMATION**

_____ The student named above has been evaluated and has a primary eligibility ruling of speech-language impairment in accordance with IDEA regulations as specified in House Bill 896 (2013). Attach documentation (Determination of Eligibility).
_____ Documentation of nonpublic school enrollment or registration is attached.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

# GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

- Parents may:
  - exercise the option to remove their child from a traditional public school setting.
  - enroll their child in a nonpublic school which meets the standards for appropriate specific instruction designed to meet the unique learning needs of young students with speech-language impairment.

- Parents may:
  - request and receive a Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship for the child
  - enroll in and attend a nonpublic school if
    - the student spent the previous school year in a Mississippi public school; or
    - any other state accredited nonpublic special purpose school in the State that provides and emphasizes instruction in speech-language therapy and intervention as the primary purpose of the school; or
    - the student has been accepted in an eligible nonpublic school.

# GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

- Parent or legal Guardians understand:
  - The child must have a primary eligibility ruling of speech-language;
  - Must be in Grades Kindergarten through Grade 6 or its equivalent (age 11 by September 1);
  - Transportation will be provided at the parent's expense;
  - Must complete a Speech-Language Therapy Program/Scholarship Application;
  - Request must create a written or electronic record of the request and the date of receipt of the request; and
  - Application packet must include proof of enrollment, verification of eligibility and a tuition/fee schedule.



MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

Ensuring a bright future for every child

# Office of Special Education Requirements

# NOTIFICATION PROCESS

- The Office of Special Education will:
  - Notify the public school district that a scholarship has been approved for a student previously enrolled in the public school district and request verification of enrollment dates.
  - Notify the parent/legal guardian of the approval/denial of the scholarship.
  - Submit names of approved recipients to School Financial Services for payment.

# FAQs

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Who is eligible?**
  - Students in kindergarten through Grade 6 or its equivalent (age 11) who have been properly evaluated and received a primary eligibility ruling of speech-language impairment shall be eligible to receive scholarship assistance.
- **Can the Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship be used for students in grades 8 and above?**
  - No, the scholarship applies only to students in kindergarten through Grade 6 or its equivalent (age 11 by September 1).
- **Can all students who have an eligibility ruling according to IDEA receive a Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship?**
  - No, only students who have a primary eligibility ruling of speech-language impairment can receive the Speech-Language Scholarship.



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **What students are not eligible for the speech-language therapy scholarship?**
  - Students enrolled in a school that provides educational services to youth in the Department of Juvenile Justice commitment programs;
  - Students who are participating in a home-school education;
  - Students who are participating in a virtual school who take three (3) or more courses per school year, correspondence school or distance learning programs that receive state funding; and
  - Students that do not have direct and regular contact with his or her private school teachers at the school's physical location.
  - Students who are receiving the ESA or Dyslexia scholarship
- **Does the student have to participate in the 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.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Who will receive the tuition reimbursement?**
  - The Mississippi State Department of Education shall make payments to the approved and accredited nonpublic schools for each student at the nonpublic school equal to the State’s share of the adequate education program payments for each student in average daily attendance at the school district from which the student(s) transferred.
- **How are the Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship funds allocated?**
  - Funds are allocated based on student base cost as appropriated.
- **Can private schools apply?**
  - Yes, those private schools that are state accredited nonpublic special purpose schools that are organized to provide and emphasizes instruction in speech-language therapy and intervention as the primary purpose of the school.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Can a 504 student receive a scholarship?**
  - Yes, if those students also have a primary eligibility ruling of speech-language impairment as defined by IDEA and state regulations.
- **If a student fails the speech-language screener, does the school district have to conduct a comprehensive speech evaluation?**
  - No, the school district, at its discretion, may conduct a comprehensive speech evaluation.
- **Can students who are participating in the Educable Child Program also receive the scholarship?**
  - Yes, they would have to apply for Educable Child funds and submit the necessary documentation for approval.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **How will funding be determined for students who are already attending nonpublic schools?**
  - There were no funds appropriated for this category of students. The nonpublic school will have to request a deficit appropriation funding.
- **Can a public school district place students at the nonpublic school and receive the scholarship for those students?**
  - No, the scholarship is an option offered to parents or legal guardians of students with an eligibility ruling of speech-language impairment to attend a nonpublic school of choice that is organized to provide and emphasizes instruction in speech-language therapy and intervention as its primary purpose.
- **What are the licensing requirements for the speech language pathologists?**
  - The speech language pathologist must have a 215 AA license.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Do students who attend the nonpublic school require an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or service plan?**
  - No, these students are parent placed and therefore do not fall under the protection of IDEA.
- **What exactly is the criterion for receiving the scholarship?**
  - Students who have a primary eligibility ruling of speech-language impairment and
  - Students who are in Grades Kindergarten through Grade 6 or its equivalent (age 11 by September 1) are eligible for the scholarship.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Will those disabilities with an inherent language issue such as autism, hearing impairment, etc., meet the criteria or must a student have a speech-language eligibility?**
  - No, the student's primary disability must be speech-language impairment.
- **Can Speech Language therapists funded by IDEA funds conduct mass speech-language screening as far as funding? Or does this need to be funded by district funds?**
  - No, the requirement for screening students for speech-language disorders is a state mandate which must be funded with local state or district funds. The use of 100% IDEA funds would be supplanting.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Is there a way to make the speech-language screener and the dyslexia screener be incorporated together-administer one screener to all 1<sup>st</sup> grade students?**
  - We are not aware of any such screener. Multiple screeners would be needed.
- **Can a 216 complete a screener for language, voice, and fluency?**
  - No, they can screen for articulation only.

# Contact Information

Office of Special Education  
601-359-3498