

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
Speech-Language Therapy Program/Scholarship (Nate Rogers)

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

1. Parents or legal guardians may exercise the option to remove their child from a traditional public school setting to be enrolled 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.
2. Parents or legal guardians of a public school student with an eligibility of speech-language impairment may request from the State a Mississippi Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship for the child to enroll in and attend a nonpublic school if:
 - a. The student has spent the previous school year in attendance at a Mississippi public school or any other 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 of the school; or
 - b. The parent or legal guardian has obtained acceptance for admission of the student to a nonpublic school that is eligible for the program and has requested from MDE a scholarship.
 - c. The request must be through communication directly to MDE in a manner that creates a written or electronic record of the request and the date of receipt of the request.
3. Parent or legal guardians understand that their child must have an eligibility ruling of speech-language impairment.
4. Parents, who opt to remove a child from a public school to a nonpublic special purpose school and to receive a scholarship, provide transportation at the parent's or guardian's expense.
5. Parent or legal guardians understand that their child must be in grades Kindergarten through Grade 6 or its equivalent (11 years of age by September 1).
6. The Parent completes the Speech-Language Therapy Program/Scholarship Application and submits to the MDE by the first day of the month in which you apply.
7. Application packet includes the completed application, proof of enrollment, and verification of eligibility. The application can be found on the Special Education website under Grants and Funding.
8. Parents or legal guardians understand that being approved for and accepting the Speech-Language Therapy Program/Scholarship prohibits them from applying for or accepting similar scholarship programs, such as the Education Scholarship Account or Dyslexia Scholarship. Doing so will result in the forfeit of the accepted scholarship.

Questions related to the application process and IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) should be directed to Keisha Dixon, Office of Special Education, at kdixon@mdek12.org or (601) 359-3498.