

Subject: Your child is eligible for a money remedy for missed special education services from Chicago Public Schools.

Dear CPS Families,

During the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years, some students at CPS did not receive all Individualized Education Plan (“IEP”) services because of CPS policies that made it harder for IEP teams to provide those services. These services included:

- Transportation;
- Extended school year services (“ESY”);
- Paraprofessional support;
- Identification as a student with a specific learning disability (“SLD”);
- Placement in a therapeutic day school (“TDS”); and
- Services provided by a paraprofessional or a special education teacher when schools didn’t have money in their budgets to fill those positions (“Budget”).

CPS is working to give those students money for the services they missed through a project called “Student Specific Corrective Action,” or “SSCA.” We believe your child may have been one of the students who missed out on services.

To claim your money remedy, go to our claims administrator’s website at www.cps-ssca.com. You will need:

- The **unique Claim ID and PIN**, which you will receive in the Notice Letter that our claims administrator is sending to you via mail and email;
- **Proof of identification**, if you are not the person that the Notice Letter is addressed to; and
- The **address or account** where you would like the remedy to be sent. (There will be several options for delivery, including PayPal.)

The deadline for claiming the money remedy is April 30, 2022. If you do not claim it by the deadline, your child will lose the money.

After you enter your information, you will see the amount of money that is being offered to you. You then have the option to accept that money, decline the money, or ask for an SSCA meeting to determine whether your child may be owed more money.

We have posted a webinar on cps.edu/ssca where you can get information about what SSCA is and what your options are. We will also have virtual town hall meetings in February, March, and April to answer any questions you have. Check our website at cps.edu/ssca for the dates of the town halls.

We recommend using the money to buy educational services or materials for your child. For example: tutoring, therapy, sports camps, music lessons, museum memberships, art classes, learning software, books, and so on. The money remedy is meant to help make up for any learning that your child may have



missed because they did not receive the services they should have received during the 2016-17 or 2017-18 school years. If your child missed transportation services during the 2016-17 or 2017-18 school year, the remedy is meant to reimburse you for providing your own transportation.

Please note that if you receive public benefits, the money remedy could have an impact on those benefits. If you have concerns about your benefits, please contact the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities at (312) 744-7050, or Legal Aid Chicago at (312) 341-1070 for assistance *before accepting your remedy*.

If you have any questions about SSCA, please read the FAQ included with this letter, watch the webinar, or participate in a town hall meeting. You can also visit www.cps.edu/ssca to find guidelines, more FAQs, and procedural safeguards to help you understand SSCA. Feel free to email us at ssca@cps.edu or give us a call at 773-553-1843.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephanie Jones

Chief, Office of Diverse Learner Support and Services

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What are the remedy amounts offered for each area?

CPS Identified Area	
Extended School Year (ESY)	\$800.00
Transportation	\$1,250.00
Paraprofessional	\$2,000.00
Specific Learning Disability (SLD)	\$4,000.00
Budget	\$2,000.00

1. What if a student was identified for a remedy in more than one area?

The amounts will be added together, up to a maximum of \$4,000.00 per school year.

1. What if I believe my child should receive more than the remedy amount?

You can request an SSCA meeting. At the SSCA meeting, a team will review your child’s records and your input to determine whether your child’s services were delayed or denied due to one or more of the identified problematic policies and, if so, whether your child made expected progress. If your child did not make expected progress for that reason, the SSCA Team can award a higher amount to compensate for that educational harm. If the SSCA Team determines that no relevant delay/denial occurred or that the child made expected progress, the child is not entitled to an individualized remedy, but you will still

be entitled to the original remedy amount. Choosing to have an SSCA meeting does not require you to forfeit the offered remedy.

1. What if I spent more than \$1,250 to transport my child to and from school in 2016-17 or 2017-18?

The remedy amount for the transportation category was calculated based on an average from a sample of impacted students. But some families spent much less and some spent much more. You may accept the \$1,250 remedy amount or request an SSCA meeting where the SSCA Team will calculate the amount of reimbursement owed to you. If you drove your child, reimbursement is calculated as:

Reimbursement = miles from home to school X 4 trips per day X the number of school days your child did not have transportation on their IEP X the IRS mileage rate for the year

If you used CTA or paid someone else to drive your child to and from school, those amounts can also be reimbursed. The amount of reimbursement will be calculated based on receipts or other proof of purchase.

1. What if I previously missed or declined a call about my child's remedy or a District-initiated SSCA meeting?

If you missed, declined, or delayed a call about your remedy or District-initiated SSCA meeting, you are still eligible for a monetary remedy. Go to www.cps-ssca.com to claim your remedy.

1. What if I previously participated in a call about my child's remedy or a District-initiated SSCA meeting, but had not yet chosen or received a remedy?

Your child is still eligible for a monetary remedy. Go to www.cps-ssca.com to claim the remedy.

1. What if I previously participated in a call about my child's remedy or a District-initiated SSCA meeting, chose a remedy, and signed a waiver, but would prefer the monetary remedy?

If the reimbursement, service-based remedy, or educational software you received was less than the full amount your child is eligible to receive, you are eligible to receive the remainder as a monetary remedy. Go to www.cps-ssca.com to claim your remaining remedy.

If you already chose and received your full remedy, you are not entitled to any additional monetary remedy.

If you chose reimbursement, services, or educational software and signed the waiver but have not yet accessed the remedy, you may be released from the waiver to receive a monetary remedy instead. Contact us at ssca@cps.edu or 773-553-1843.

1. What if I participated in a District-initiated SSCA meeting and was found ineligible for a remedy?

You are now eligible for a monetary remedy. Go to www.cps-ssca.com to claim your remedy.

1. My family receives public benefits. Will accepting the remedy jeopardize those benefits?

The answer depends on the type of benefits you receive. If you have concerns about your benefits, please contact the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities at (312) 744-7050, or Legal Aid Chicago at (312) 341-1070 for assistance *before accepting your remedy*. Limited service-based remedies are

available to families who would lose their benefits if they accepted the monetary remedy. To request a service-based remedy, contact us at ssca@cps.edu or 773-553-1843.

1. Will I have to pay taxes on the remedy?

You will not be asked to complete a W-9 and will not receive a 1099 tax form. The District views the remedies as a reimbursement for services that should have been provided as well as payments made for the general welfare of students, which are not considered taxable income.

1. What is the deadline to claim my remedy or request an SSCA meeting?

You must claim your remedy or request an SSCA meeting by **April 30, 2022**. To claim your remedy, visit www.cps-ssca.com. To request an SSCA meeting, call 773-553-1843 or email ssca@cps.edu or visit cps.edu/ssca.

1. How can I get more information?

You can go to www.cps.edu/ssca for information, including a webinar overview and links to sign up for town hall meetings. Additionally, you can contact ssca@cps.edu or 773-553-1843. Additional resources are available on the SSCA website at www.cps.edu/ssca. You can also call the Equip for Equality SSCA hotline to be connected to a lawyer or advocate who represents parents at no charge: 312-895-7231. You can also speak with your school's principal or district representative.