



Supplemental Special Education Services: **SSES Updates**



Agenda

- ① SSES Overview
- ② SSES Data Updates
- ③ SSES+ Medically Fragile Program
- ④ Resources for LEAs



1

SSES Overview

What is the SSES Program?

The SSES Program gives a \$1,500 first-come, first-served one-time grant to families of students served by special education who are enrolled in a Texas public school.

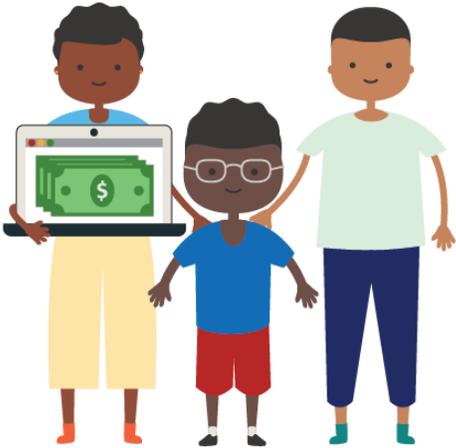
Who's Eligible?

Last year, on October 1, 2021, the program expanded to be open to **all students served through special education** in **grades PreK – 12th**.

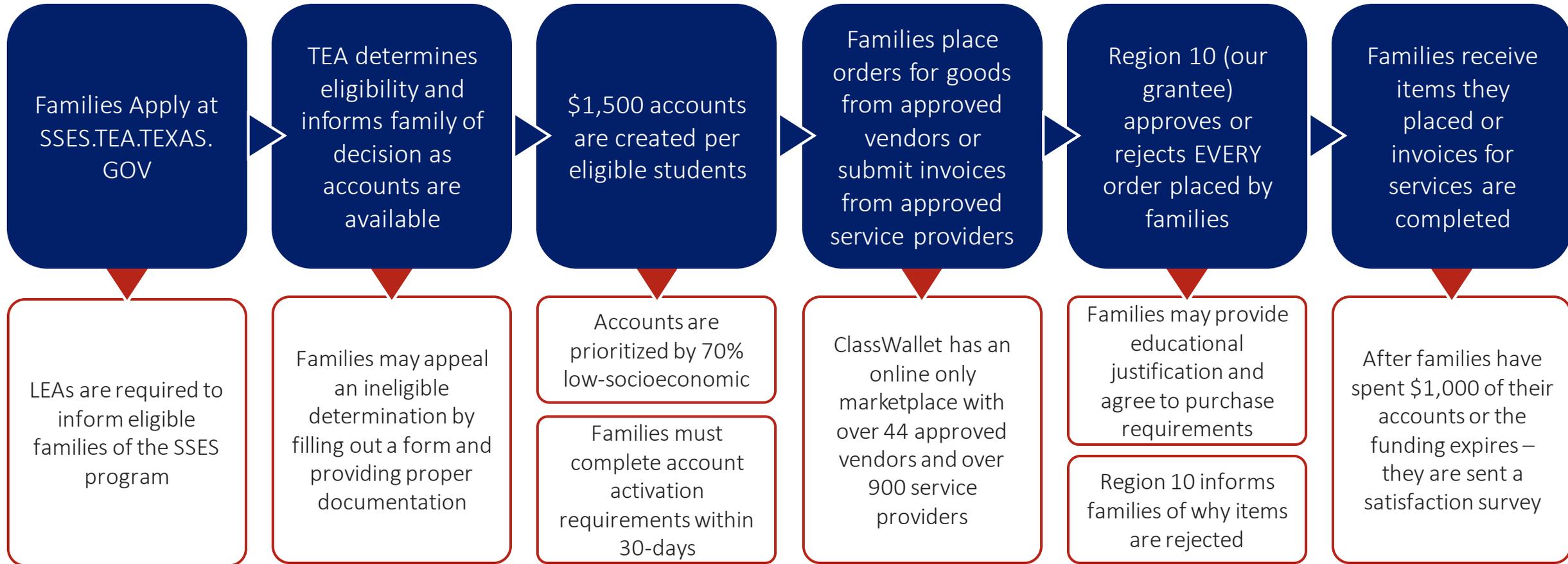
What can families purchase?

With SSES accounts, families can purchase educational goods and services from the SSES marketplace – an online shopping platform.

All items are reviewed and approved or denied by the SSES Program Team.



How does the SSES program work?





The SSES Program has secured an **additional \$111M**, this will give SSES grants to a **minimum of 57,000 additional students**.

Initial Funding

(All funneled through TEA)

GEER I Funding
\$30M

18,000 accounts

Started as Significant
Cognitive –
Expanded in October to all
students receiving special
education services

Expanded Funding

(All expanded funding is granted to and funneled through Region 10)

GR Funding
\$60M from SB 1716
(\$30M each year)

36,000 accounts

All students receiving
special education services

GEER II Funding
\$31M

18,600 accounts

All students receiving
special education services

ESSER III Funding
\$20M

< 3,000 accounts

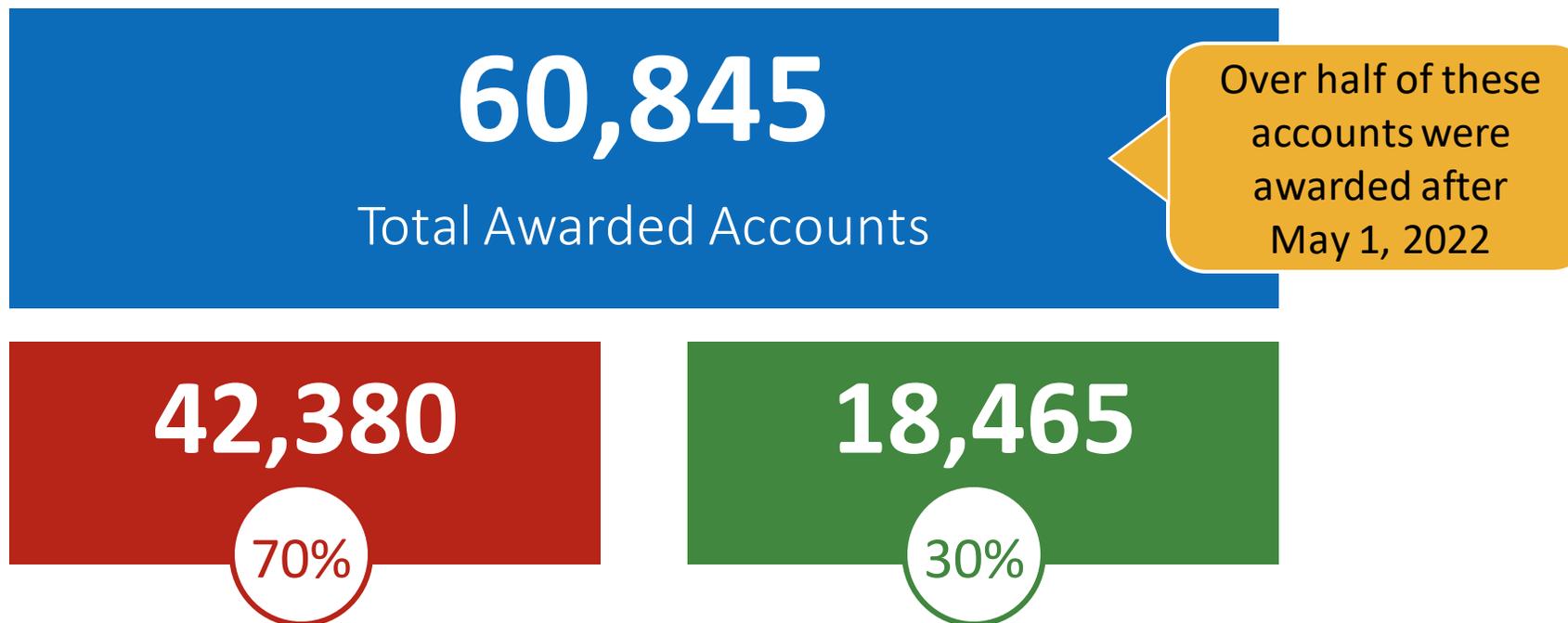
Medically Fragile



2

SSES Data Updates

To date, we've awarded accounts to over 75% of eligible applicants.



SSES gives priority to families with a low-socioeconomic status, TEA determines this based off a student's Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL) coding.

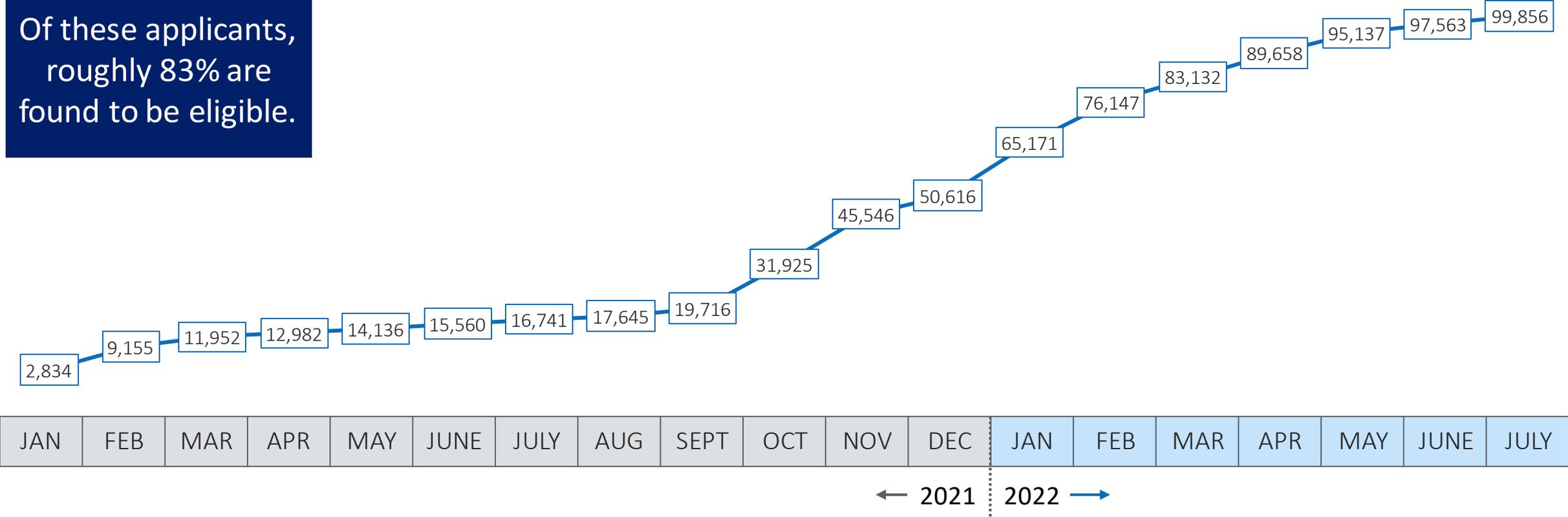
■ Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL) eligible ■ Not Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL) eligible

The number of SSES applications continues to grow.



We have received almost 100,000 applications since January 2021.

Of these applicants, roughly 83% are found to be eligible.

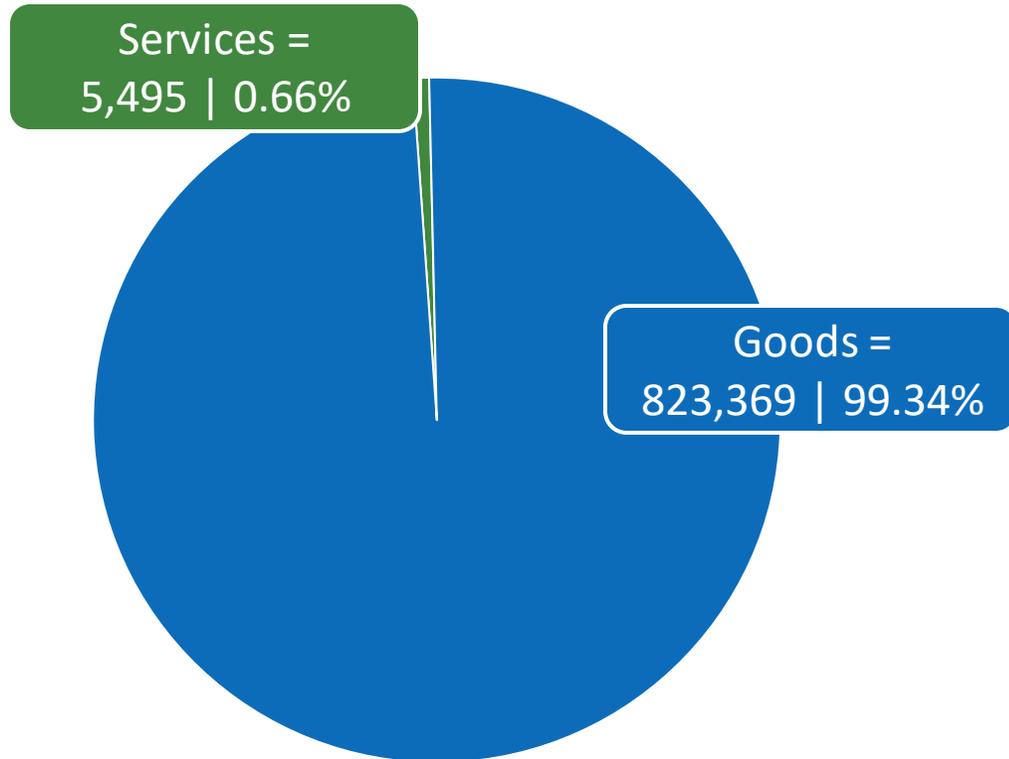


Data from July 28, 2022

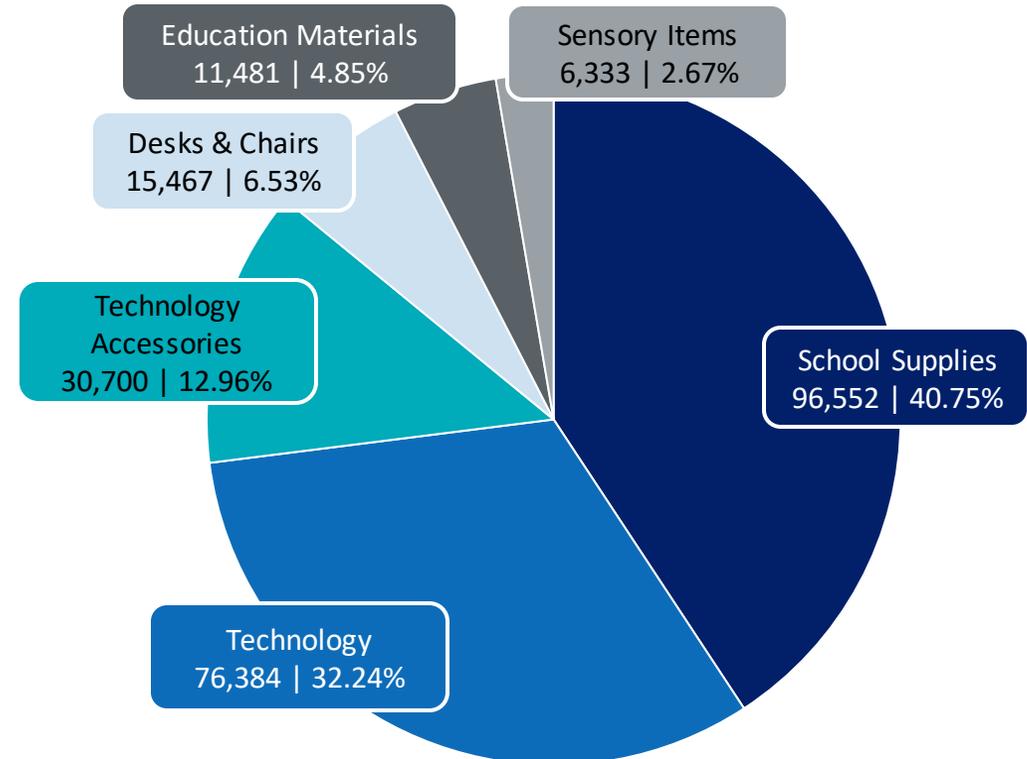
SSES Purchases



828,863 total items purchased

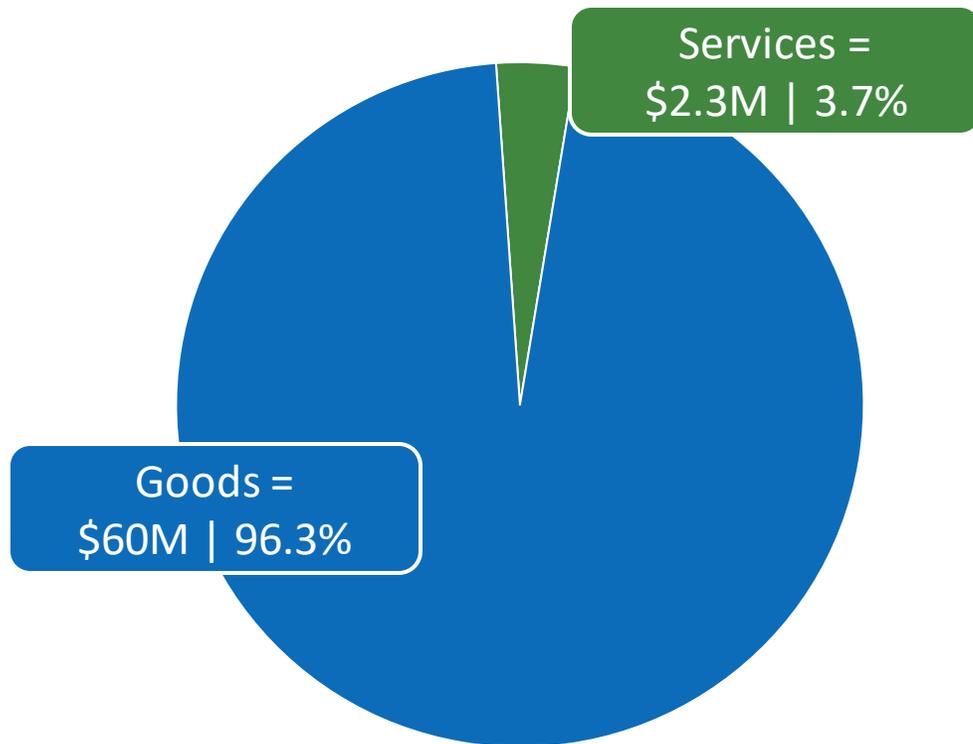


Top Goods Breakdown*



*242,411 items used as denominator from the top items – estimation due to a limitation of data.

**\$62,181,335 total funds spent
on the marketplace**



Services Breakdown

- Services make up a slightly larger percentage of **ORDERS** at 3% as well (5,238 of 176,994 orders).
- There are 977 total service providers (361 tutors, 478 therapists, and 138 specialized services) available on the platform – 605 (61.9%) had had at least 1 approved invoice.
- 5 service providers (companies or individuals) make up over 800 invoices.

Parent Quotes from 2021 Grants



My child is low functioning autism and I really didn't think he would have any kind of future other than being placed in a supported living situation... **His behavior in school has significantly improved and his attention and focus to his seated work activity it's now up to 45 minutes compared to 5 to 10 minutes per previous levels! His reading skills have improved from a second grade level to a fourth grade level!**



This program has allowed me to purchase many supplies and workbooks that will allow me and my son to work toward his educational goals at home. **We are able to work together at a great pace and ensure that he will understand each lesson fully.**



We are so incredibly grateful that we were allowed to be part of this program. I now have **wonderful tools that are fun and educational** for my son... The selection was vast and I was easily able to **pick out items that interest my son**. My deepest thanks!



The goods I purchased allowed my non-verbal autistic daughter an opportunity to **keep pace with her IEP goals at home** and she won't need ESY services this year.



The SSES program was extremely beneficial. It made it possible to get my child the **learning materials needed to bridge the gap between school and at home learning.**



3

SSES+ Program

For students identified as Medically Fragile

SSES+ Medically Fragile v. SSES



THERE ARE TWO SSES PROGRAMS

SSES+ Medically Fragile



SSES



WHO QUALIFIES?

Students identified as medically fragile

Students served through special education

FUNDING?

\$20M in ESSER III

\$121M total (GR Year 1 and 2, GEER I, GEER II)

SSES+ Medically Fragile: Overview



TEXAS DEFINES MEDICALLY FRAGILE AS:

whether the student receiving special education and related services is **ALSO**:

- in the age range of birth to 22 years, **AND**
- has a serious, ongoing illness or a chronic condition that has lasted or is anticipated to last at least 12 or more months or has required at least one month of hospitalization, and that requires daily, ongoing medical treatments and monitoring by appropriately trained personnel which may include parents or other family members, **AND**
- requires the routine use of medical device or of assistive technology to compensate for the loss of usefulness of a body function needed to participate in activities of daily living, **AND**
- lives with ongoing threat to his or her continued well-being.

SSES+ Medically Fragile: Overview



IN TEXAS THERE ARE...

Only

2,642

students identified as
medically fragile in Texas.

Less than

0.5%

of the total number of students
served through special education.

SSES+ Medically Fragile v. SSES



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SSES+ Medically Fragile

The SSES + Program is NEW in 2022 and will begin in August.

- Families of qualifying students will receive online accounts to purchase goods or services that help their student access public school and/or health related services at home or where care is provided.
- SSES + accounts begin with a \$5,000 grant. Families are able to request additional funds for more expensive items through TEA.
- There is enough funding for all students who are identified as medically fragile.

SSES

This is the same SSES Program that began in January 2021.

- Families of qualifying students will receive online accounts to purchase educational goods or services and must benefit their student's education.
- SSES accounts are one-time grants of \$1,500.
- Not all students that qualify for the SSES program will receive accounts, TEA has limited funding and will award accounts in the order in which their application is received.

APPLICATION:

SSES+ families will **apply using the same SSES application**. If families have previously applied, they will be notified separately.

After families have applied, they will receive a separate email with SSES+ program details and timelines.

FUNDING & ACCOUNTS:

Families with SSES+ accounts will **begin with a \$5,000 online account** and can request additional funds through an online form.

Families with current SSES accounts will receive an additional \$3,500 in their current ClassWallet account.

PURCHASES:

- Families will be able to purchase from all the vendors currently on the ClassWallet Marketplace and **additional stores are being added strategically and will be available at the launch of the program.**
- Families will also be able to purchase items through the direct pay feature for items that may not be available on the marketplace – Assistance with adding direct pay vendors will be provided.
- These accounts are separate from the current SSES program and will have different purchasing requirements aligned with the specific needs of the medically fragile community.
- Families will have a more curated list with webinars on how to request these funds and ideas on what to purchase – this will be available after the start of the program.
- Like the current SSES program, all items requested must be approved by the SSES Team at Region 10.



4

Resources for LEAs

SSES+ Medically Fragile: Resources for LEAs



Servicios Suplementarios de Educación Especial SSES+ vs. SSES

Supplemental Special Education Services SSES+ vs. SSES

THERE ARE TWO SSES PROGRAMS:

SSES+	SSES
<p>WHO QUALIFIES?</p> <p>STUDENTS IDENTIFIED AS MEDICALLY FRAGILE</p> <p>The SSES+ Program is NEW in 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families of qualifying students will receive online accounts to purchase goods or services that help their student access public school and/or health related services at home or where care is provided. SSES+ accounts begin with a \$5,000 grant. Families are able to request additional funds for more expensive items through TEA. There is currently enough funding for all students who are identified as medically fragile. <p>TEXAS DEFINES MEDICALLY FRAGILE AS:</p> <p>whether the student receiving special education and related services is ALSO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in the age range of birth to 21 years, AND has a serious, ongoing illness or a chronic condition that has lasted or is anticipated to last at least 12 or more months or has required at least one month of hospitalization, and that requires daily, ongoing medical treatments and monitoring by appropriately trained personnel which may include parents or other family members, AND requires the routine use of medical device or of assistive technology to compensate for the loss of usefulness of a body function needed to participate in activities of daily living, AND has with ongoing threat to his or her continued well-being. 	<p>WHO QUALIFIES?</p> <p>STUDENTS SERVED THROUGH SPECIAL EDUCATION</p> <p>This is the same SSES Program that began in January 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families of qualifying students will receive online accounts to purchase educational goods or services and must benefit their student's education. SSES accounts are one-time grants of \$1,000. Not all students that qualify for the SSES program will receive accounts. TEA has limited funding and will award accounts in the order in which their application is received.

TEA.TEXAS.GOV/SSES-MEDICALLY-FRAGILE | SSESHelp@region10.org

One-Pager: SSES+ Medically Fragile vs. SSES

Servicios Suplementarios de Educación Especial - Medicamento Frágil SSES+ DESCRIPCIÓN GENERAL

Supplemental Special Education Services - Medically Fragile SSES+ OVERVIEW

APPLICATIÓN:

SSES+ Families will apply using the same SSES application. If families have previously applied, they will be notified separately. After families have applied they will receive a separate email with SSES+ program details and timelines.

FUNDING & ACCOUNTS:

Families with SSES+ accounts will begin with a \$5,000 online account and can request additional funds through an online form. Families with current SSES accounts will receive an additional \$3,500 in their current ClassWallet account.

PURCHASES:

- Families will be able to purchase from all the current vendors currently on the ClassWallet Marketplace.
- Additional items are being added strategically and will be available at the launch of the program. This is based off of initial family feedback from the stores on the marketplace.
- These accounts are separate from the other SSES programs and will have different purchasing requirements.
- Families will have a more curated list with webinars on how to request these funds and ideas on what to purchase.
- Items in cart would still be subject to approvals.

OUTREACH:

- TEA is partnering with stakeholder groups for targeted outreach.
- Direct outreach with deliverables specifically for SSES+.
- Two focus groups with families of students identified as medically fragile.

LEA Specific Outreach:

- TEA will provide a list of eligible students to all LEAs.
- TEA will provide outreach materials for LEAs to distribute to SSES+ families - including a sample letter and one-pager.

PROYECTADO PARA COMENZAR AGOSTO 2022

SOLO 2,644 ESTUDIANTES IDENTIFICADOS COMO MEDICAMENTE FRÁGIL EN TEXAS

MENOS QUE 0.5% DEL NÚMERO TOTAL DE ESTUDIANTES ATENDIDOS A TRAVÉS DE EDUCACIÓN ESPECIAL.

\$20M EN FONDOS ESER DEDICADOS HACIA SSES+

\$20M IN ESER III FUNDS DEDICATED TO SSES+

TEA.TEXAS.GOV/SSES-MEDICALLY-FRAGILE | SSESHelp@region10.org

One-Pager: SSES+ Medically Fragile Overview

Servicios Suplementarios de Educación Especial + SSES+ Medicamento Frágil

Supplemental Special Education Services + SSES+ Medically Fragile

Dear parents and guardians:

We are writing to inform you of a new addition to the Supplemental Special Education Services program called SSES+ Medically Fragile. This new program is only available to families with students identified as medically fragile.

The SSES+ Medically Fragile Program awards grants of \$5,000 or more to eligible families of students identified as medically fragile.

Students who receive special education services, who are currently enrolled in a Texas public school, and are identified as "medically fragile" now qualify for the new SSES+ Medically Fragile grant from TEA. We have determined that your student/family will likely qualify for the SSES+ Medically Fragile Program. If you would like more details on the difference between the new SSES+ and the existing SSES Program, please visit the SSES+ Medically Fragile website.

To apply for the SSES+ Medically Fragile Program, visit this site: SSES.tea.texas.gov and click on "Apply Today!"

The SSES+ Medically Fragile awards grants of \$5,000 or more to eligible families of medically fragile students. After you have applied and received your account, you will be able to request additional funds through TEA to be able to purchase items that may exceed the original \$5,000 grant.

If you have already applied or received an SSES grant, you will be notified separately. If you already have a ClassWallet account additional funds will be added into your account. If you have previously applied, you will receive your ClassWallet account with information on how to log in and access these additional funds.

After you have been awarded an SSES account:

- You will be able to access the SSES Marketplace to purchase items or services for your student.
- Each item you're attempting to purchase will be reviewed before approving - it is helpful if you add additional information in the justification on the item(s) attempting to be purchased.
- If you wish to request additional funding, please fill out the form provided in your initial award email from TEA.

Thank you for your time.

To apply for the SSES+ Program, visit this site: SSES.tea.texas.gov and click on "Apply Today!"

For additional questions, please visit the SSES+ Medically Frágil website. If you need additional help, please contact sseshelp@region10.org or call 1-855-773-3839.

TEA.TEXAS.GOV/SSES-MEDICALLY-FRAGILE | SSESHelp@region10.org

Customizable Letter for LEAs for SSES+

SSES+ Medically Fragile

English | Español

General FAQs

How much are the SSES Medically Fragile accounts?

Why are SSES+ Medically Fragile accounts more than the regular SSES program?

What if my student already had or currently has an SSES/ClassWallet account?

In December of 2021, the Office of the Governor designated \$20 million dollars in ESER III funds to be awarded to provide a direct benefit to students identified as medically fragile. Due to the limited number of students identified as medically fragile and the unique and highly specialized needs of this population, the SSES+ Medically Fragile program provides more funds.

If you already have a ClassWallet account, or have previously had a ClassWallet account, you be awarded the difference for the SSES+ Medically Fragile funds, of \$3,500, into your account. You will be contacted by email about the additional funds being added into your account.

Specific SSES+ Medically Fragile FAQs

TEA.TEXAS.GOV/SSES-medically-fragile

Resources for LEAs - UPDATES



tea.texas.gov/SSESResources



- Important links for families
- SSES Technical Assistance – with contact information
- One-Page resources for families
- Customizable documents for families
- Videos for families
- SSES+ Medically Fragile Resources
- Additional Resources
 - Link to service provider extension form
- LEA requirements under SB 1716 rule

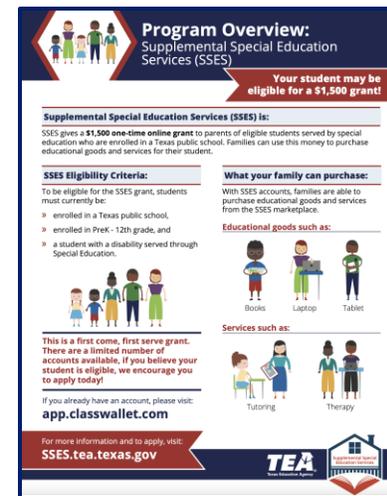
LEA requirements under SB 1716 rule:

19 TAC §102.1601. Supplemental Special Education Services and Instructional Materials Program for Certain Public School Students Receiving Special Education Services.

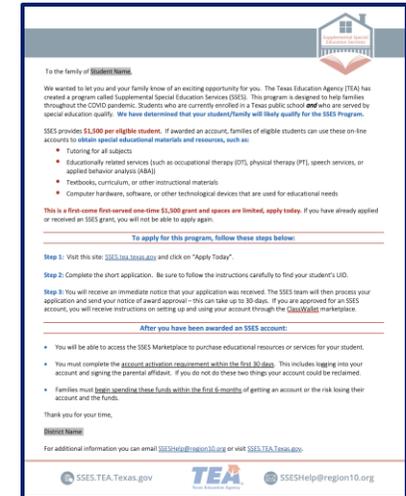
(i) Requirements to provide information.

(1) School districts and open-enrollment charter schools shall notify parents and guardians of students served by special education of the SSES program and how to apply.

TEA created resources for LEAs to fulfill this requirement:



One-Page: Overview
(English, Spanish, Vietnamese,
Arabic, Simplified Chinese)



Sample Letter
(English and Spanish)

tea.texas.gov/SSESResources

Resources for LEAs



LEA requirements under SB 1716 rule:

19 TAC §102.1601. Supplemental Special Education Services and Instructional Materials Program for Certain Public School Students Receiving Special Education Services.

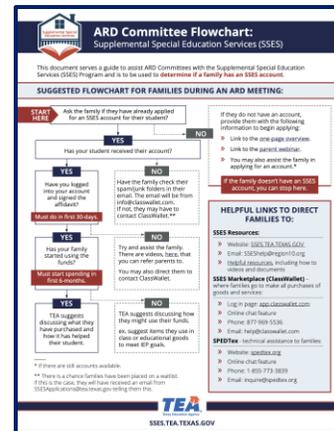
(i) Requirements to provide information.

(2) At the student's next admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee meeting, the ARD committee shall determine if a student has been awarded an SSES account. At this meeting, upon learning that a student has been awarded an account, the ARD committee shall provide:

A. information about types of goods and services that are available to the eligible student; and

B. instructions and resources on accessing the online accounts.

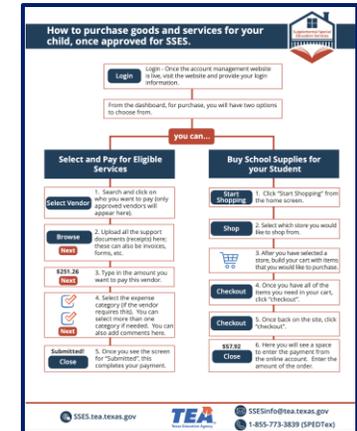
TEA created resources for LEAs to fulfill this requirement:



ARD Committee Flowchart for ARD Meetings



One-Page: Overview (English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic, Simplified Chinese)



One-Page: How to access the online marketplace

tea.texas.gov/SSESResources

Under SB1716 rule, LEAs must still be informing families about the SSES program.

TEA created this website with resources that are available to LEAs as well as the requirements under SB 1716:

tea.texas.gov/SSESresources

LEAs are encouraged to inform eligible families of the SSES+ Medically Fragile program in addition to the main SSES program.

TEA.TEXAS.GOV/SSES-medically-fragile



Questions?



General Questions for Families and LEAs:

Contact the SSES Team at Region 10:

Email: SSEShelp@region10.org

Phone: [1-855-773-3839](tel:1-855-773-3839)



Thank you!