

THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT KEY POINTS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ¹

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Spend Quickly to Save and Create Jobs** = designed to avert layoffs, create and save jobs and improve student achievement.
- **Ensure Transparency and Accountability** = prevent fraud and abuse, support the most effective uses of ARRA funds, and accurately measure and track results, recipients must publicly report on how funds are used.
- **Thoughtfully Invest One-time Funds** = represents a historic infusion of funds that is expected to be temporary, last no more than two to three years, must not be invested in unsustainable continuing commitments.
- **Advance Effective Reforms** = use school improvement and reform to close the achievement gap and help students from all backgrounds achieve high standards.

These four principles guide the distribution and use of the ARRA funds.

ASSURANCES

All states must address four core reform areas that ARRA holds make a critical contribution to student results:

- Making progress toward rigorous college- and career-ready standards and high quality assessments that are valid and reliable for all students, ***including English language learners and students with disabilities;***
- Establishing pre-K-to college and career data systems that track progress and foster continuous improvement;
- Making improvements in teacher effectiveness and in the equitable distribution of qualified teachers for all students, ***particularly students who are most in need;***
- Providing intensive support and effective interventions for the lowest-performing schools;

FUNDS

\$44 Billion becomes Available to States by the End of March

- State Stabilization - \$32.5 billion (67% of the total amount available for this)
- **IDEA, Parts B & C - \$6.1 billion (50%)**
- **Title I, Part A - \$5 billion (50%)**
- **Vocational Rehabilitation - \$270 million (50%)**
- Homeless Youth - \$70 million (100%)
- **Independent Living - \$52.5 million (100% of formula monies; \$87.5 million in competitive grants to follow)**
- Impact Aid - \$40 million (100% of formula monies; \$60 million in competitive grants to follow)

\$49 Billion Additional Becomes Available between Summer and Fall 2009

- Pell & Work Study - \$17.3 billion (100%)
- State Stabilization - \$16.1 billion (33%)
- **IDEA, Parts B & C - \$6.1 billion (50%)**
- **Title I, Part A - \$5 billion (50%)**
- Title I School Improvement - \$3 billion (100%)
- Enhancing Education through Technology - \$650 million (100%)
- **Vocational Rehabilitation - \$270 million (50%)**

- Statewide Data Systems - \$250 million (100%)
- Teacher Incentive Fund - \$200 million (100%)
- Teacher Quality Enhancement - \$100 million (100%)

LEAs should use the **IDEA** recovery funds quickly. A state should make the Part B Grants to States and Preschool Grants recovery funds that it receives in March available to LEAs by the **end of April 2009**. An LEA should obligate the majority of these funds during school years 2008-09 and 2009-10 and the remainder during school year 2010-11. States may begin obligating IDEA, Part B recovery funds immediately upon the effective date of the grant. **All IDEA recovery funds must be obligated by September 30, 2011.**

IMPORTANCE TO PARENTS/PARENT ROLE

- Important that parents know about the availability of these funds
- Should ask schools/districts about how decisions will be made about use of these funds and will parents participate
- Should inquire about and attend any meetings available regarding use of these funds
- Find out how school/district state will report on progress toward assurances
- Monitor those reports and raise concerns when necessary
- Find out what the funds will mean in terms of services/quality of instruction/programs available to their child

MORE INFORMATION

- IDEA Allocations for California school districts at <http://edlabor.house.gov/documents/111/pdf/publications/CALIFORNIA-20090213-HR1-LEAs.pdf>
- www.ed.gov and www.recovery.gov
- http://www.naspo.org/content.cfm/id/stimulus#State_Resources (bottom of page has a listing of sites for information state by state so you can check California's amounts and plans; there also other important web sources listed)

¹ Much of the information included in this document was adapted from a slide presentation of the US Department of Education regarding "The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Saving and Creating Jobs and Investment in Education." Brief prepared by D.K. Daniels-Smith, April 2, 2009.