
America Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Briefing to Maine Superintendents
Susan A. Gendron
Commissioner of Education
March 16, 2009

“In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity, it is a pre-requisite. That is why it will be the goal of this administration to ensure that every child has access to a complete and competitive education – from the day they are born to the day they enter a career.”

President Barack Obama
Address to Joint Session of Congress
February 24, 2009

Early Education

President Obama's Education Agenda 2009

- ❖ Birth to 5-year-olds comprehensive systems
- ❖ 2010 *Early Learning Challenge Grants*
- ❖ Incentive grants – data collection across programs (Head Start, Pre-kindergarten and other early learning settings)
- ❖ Uniform quality standards
- ❖ Increased efforts for most disadvantaged children

Race to the Top: K-12 Education

President Obama's Education Agenda 2009

- World class standards
- State-of-the-art data and assessment systems
- Re-invest in the teaching profession
- Recruiting mid-career professionals
- Performance pay models

Driving Innovation and Expecting Excellence

President Obama's Education Agenda 2009

- ❖ High quality charter schools
- ❖ Middle school and high school focus on at-risk populations
- ❖ Reform lowest performing schools

ARRA

Goal: To insure the long-term health of our nation by:

- Stimulating the economy in the short-term
- Investing in education
- Investing in other public services

ARRA Principles

1. Spend funds quickly to save and create jobs

- Avert layoffs
- Improve student achievement
- Develop plans for use of funds
- Promptly begin spending funds

ARRA Principles

2. Improve student achievement through school improvement* and reform:

- College/career standards
- High quality assessments (all students)
- Data systems
- Distribute Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT) equitably
- Intensive support and intervention for low performing schools

***Technical assistance for schools not making AYP**

ARRA Principles

3. Ensure transparency, reporting and accountability

- Accurately measure and track results
- Publicly report how funds are spent
- Additional reporting

ARRA Principles

4. Invest one-time ARRA funds thoughtfully to minimize the “funding cliff”

- Only available two to three years
- Must be sustainable

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF)

Awarding SFSF Grants

- ***Phase I: State application for initial funding***

State Assurances:

- Increase teacher effectiveness
- Establish Pre-K through college and career data systems
- College/career standards and assessments
- Targeted and intensive support for needs improvement schools

- ***Awarded to States within 2 weeks after approval***

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSSF)

■ *Phase II: State application*

- Detailed strategies for addressing the education reform in assurances
- May use funds for any activity authorized under:
 - **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)**, which includes the modernization renovation, or repair of public school facilities,
 - **IDEA**
 - **Perkins Act**, and/or
 - **Adult Education and Family Literacy**

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSSF)

- ESEA (Handout)
- IDEA (Handout)
- Perkins (Handout)
- Adult Education and Family Literacy (Handout)

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSSF)

- **School Modernization is an *option* – not a requirement**
- **Prohibited Uses:**
 1. Maintenance costs
 2. Stadiums or facilities used for athletics
 3. Vehicles
 4. Improvement of facilities that are primarily used for non-educational uses (administrative buildings)

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF)

■ Use of Funds

- Avoid layoffs
- May use modernization funds for early childhood education and for the community, and creating “green” buildings
- Available for obligation until Sept. 30, 2011
- May use funds as non-federal to meet other program requirements for maintenance of effort

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF)

■ **Accountability**

Must report:

1. Use of funds
2. Estimated jobs saved or created
3. Estimated tax increases averted
4. Progress in the areas covered by application

Title I

- Allocation will include federal FY 09 allocation and recovery funds
 - 50% of Recovery funds to be sent to SEA in April
 - Remaining 50% flows between July 1 and October 1, 2009
- FY 09 plan should reflect both funding streams
- Focus on short-term investments with potential for long-term benefits

Title I

- Allowable expenses:
 - ❑ Identify and train highly effective teachers
 - ❑ Secondary student online learning options as supplemental services
 - ❑ Reading and math coaches
 - ❑ Extended school year, before/after school
 - ❑ Early childhood experience

Title I

- Early childhood focus by Congress
 - Chapter 203 (Handout)
 - Application (Handout)
 - Expenditures B-5 allowable
- <40% free and reduced must be targeted assistance
- >40% can be school-wide or targeted assistance
- We are requesting Secretary Duncan consider a waiver of this provision to allow more school wide provision

IDEA

- 50% awarded to state in April
- Remainder by October
- School-Based Rehabilitation/ MaineCare rules
- Funds should be primarily obligated in school FY09 and FY10 and the remainder in FY11

IDEA

- States to make funds available by the end of April
- Short-term investments
- Possible uses (Handouts)
- Cash Management
- If funds are not obligated by Sept 30, 2011, funds will be lost

Race to the Top: K-12 Education

- \$4.35 B (nationally)
- Competitive grants to SEAs Fall '09, Spring '10
- Collaborative
- Will reward states that have made the most progress
- Will be used to build the foundation for the reauthorization of ESEA

Innovation Fund

- \$650 M (nationally)
- Competitive grants
- LEA and non-profit partnerships
- Collaboratives with strong record of results
- Fall 2009
- Spring 2010

Additional Grants

- Teacher Incentive Fund (\$200M nationally)
 - Teacher Performance Systems
- Statewide Data Systems (\$250M nationally)
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
- Education Technology (Title IID)
- Pell Grants

Tax Provisions

- American Opportunity Tax Credit
- Computer as Qualified Education Expense
- Qualified School Construction Bonds
- Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB)

Additional Topics

- MLTI 7-12 proposal
- Good Will Hinckley proposal
- Change package
- Other items