

March 2, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

This letter is a report on activities at Learning Point Associates related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Currently, we are focused on a review of how the funds under this act will be deployed in order to better understand the breadth and depth of support that the U.S. Department of Education, state education agencies, and local school districts will need to use these funds efficiently, effectively, and responsibly.

After the president signed this act, our staff met with officials from the U.S. Department of Education, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National Governors Association, and congressional staff. Officials at each of these meetings reiterated that the responsibility for ensuring that these funds do in fact make a difference, have a measurable impact, and address the most pressing needs of closing the achievement gaps rests with state, district, and school leaders. The expectation is that organizations such as Learning Point Associates will provide research-based, high-quality resources and technical assistance through our federally funded contracts as well as through our fee-based services. Our success will be measured by how well we can work with you to demonstrate a positive impact on teaching and learning.

Each day brings new information, and we are working in a coordinated fashion to track all the developments so we can be as responsive as possible to your needs. Our staff will be contacting you to hear about your plans and challenges and to seek guidance on how we can best address your needs. I hope you will reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you might have regarding the new funding streams and associated requirements. As always, we will do our best to provide you with a rapid response that is reliable and accurate. When we do not have an immediate answer to your questions or challenges, we will direct you to other reliable resources for information and assistance.

At Learning Point Associates, we always have worked hard to ensure that we—and our clients—have the tools and resources necessary to make good decisions and reliable choices. The impetus of this historic investment in education is clearly on fast and efficient responses, and we have shown that fast can also be smart and that partnerships and collaboration enhance the yield for short- and long-term improvements.

For 25 years, Learning Point Associates has been a credible partner to the U.S. Department of Education, state education agencies, foundations, districts, and schools. Policymakers, educators, and community members like you rely on our ability to identify and address challenges using data, research, and best practice. Our team is energized by the opportunities set forth in ARRA that will transform our nation's education system and our standing in the world.

Sincerely,



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