

What Is the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009?

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What general guidance has been provided that clarifies the appropriate use of stimulus funds?

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is working diligently to meet the timetables set by Congress for the distribution of funds and to provide appropriate guidance. Learning Point Associates is sponsoring the [Education Recovery and Reinvestment Center \(ERRC\)](#) to help education stakeholders throughout the country as they work to understand this guidance and put these funds to good use.

Learning Point Associates created a [narrated slide show](#) that provides a thorough overview of the programs funded under ARRA and the timing for the distribution of those funds.

ED has instructive information on their [website](#). Many of these materials provide concrete examples of how these funds can be used:

- [Fact sheets and guidance for the various programs](#) funded under ARRA
- In addition, each federal program provides examples in its regulations and other materials on appropriate uses of these funds. The following pages offer additional direction to states and school districts on how these funds can be used:

[Title I, Part A](#)

[Title I School Improvement Fund](#)

[Impact Aid](#)

[Educational Technology State Grants \(Ed-Tech program\)](#)

[Homeless Children and Youth Education \(McKinney-Vento\)](#)

[Teacher Incentive Fund](#)

Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants
IES Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Program
IDEA Parts B and C

Where can I find additional resources to navigate the complexities of ARRA?

To help education stakeholders navigate the complexities of ARRA and the distribution of funds and requirements articulated in the law and by ED, Learning Point Associates has created several useful resources for states and districts:

- Our [side-by-side document](#) organizes the information in the law and ED’s guidance into an easy-to-follow table. This document is updated regularly as new guidance is issued and new information becomes available.
- In partnership with ED, the National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality (TQ Center) and Great Lakes East and Great Lakes West Regional Comprehensive Centers at Learning Point Associates, we will be developing resources that specifically address how states and districts can use stimulus funds. As this information becomes available, it will be posted to the [ERRC website](#).
- One of the goals of ARRA is to promote four key reform areas: teacher effectiveness and equitable distribution; data collection; standards and assessment; and support for struggling schools. ED is expecting that states and districts will use ARRA funds to make progress in these areas. Soon, ED will release draft metrics that will be open for public comment, and we will post them on our website when they become available. To help states and districts understand what they can do to make progress in these areas, the ERRC website contains detailed information on its [State Fiscal Stabilization Fund \(SFSF\) Assurances page](#).
- As states begin to release their guidance to districts, we will post this information on our [State Resources page](#). Many states already have provided detailed and useful information that is posted at this page.

What funding streams have resulted from this legislation?

- ED maintains a [webpage](#) dedicated to providing information and updates about ARRA. Information is updated regularly with webcasts, slideshows, and the like.
- Learning Point Associates created a [narrated slide show](#) that provides a thorough overview of the programs funded under ARRA and the timing for the distribution of those funds.

What information has been shared to explain accountability and monitoring requirements?

ARRA calls for a new level of transparency and accountability. A state is required to submit reports containing the information required under section 1512(c) of ARRA. ED is developing a common reporting form that will describe a streamlined quarterly process for reporting on the use of ARRA funds awarded by ED. In addition, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is expected to issue governmentwide guidance on ARRA reporting requirements and procedures. This information will be posted on the [ERRC website](#) when it becomes available.

A state must have an effective system for managing the flow of funds that ensures that entities are able to receive funds as needed to pay program costs but that also minimizes the time between the transfer of the funds and their disbursement by the grantee or subgrantee, in accordance with U.S. Department of the Treasury regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 205 (see 34 C.F.R. 80.21(b)). Grantees and subgrantees must promptly, but at least quarterly, remit to ED interest earned on advances (34 C.F.R. 80.21(i)). ED will take appropriate actions against grantees and subgrantees that fail to comply with this requirement.

Guidance issued by ED for each program addresses the issue of accountability and monitoring. For questions not addressed in the guidance, contacting ED directly is suggested. Additional information about ARRA reporting instructions will be provided when it becomes available.

- The published [guidance for Title I funds](#) addresses transparency, accountability, and reporting in Section E, beginning on page 37. Quarterly reports will be required for Title I funds, and those reports will be posted at the ED recovery website. “At a minimum, section 1512(c) of the ARRA requires a State to report the total amounts of Title I, Part A ARRA funds received and expended or obligated; the project’s or activity’s name, description, and evaluation of its completion status on which Title I, Part [A] ARRA funds are used; and an estimate of the number of jobs that were saved or created with those funds” (Title I guidance, p. 37).
- The published [guidance for IDEA, Part B, funds](#) addresses transparency, accountability, and reporting in Section E, beginning on page 19.
- [Guidance on the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Program](#) addresses transparency, accountability, reporting, and other obligations in Section VII beginning on page 42. The specific items that must be addressed in this report are listed on p. 44.

What is the timeline for distributing the funds?

- ARRA provides specific deadlines for when funding under the various programs must be provided by the federal agencies to the appropriate states. ED provides [information about the timing of funds](#) for programs funded by ARRA. The [side-by-side document](#) developed by Learning Point Associates incorporates all articulated dates by ED for the programs funded under ARRA.
- The guidelines for states are much broader. On its website in the [guidance for Title I funds](#), ED states that “In accordance with the goals of ARRA, the Department encourages

states to award Title I, Part A ARRA funds to their LEAs as quickly as possible, consistent with prudent management, so that LEAs can begin using the funds.”

- In *Guidance on the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Program*, ED states that “While a Governor should consider the immediate needs of LEAs and public IHEs, the Governor has some flexibility in the timing of the release of the funds” (p. 15). ED is awarding funds to states in two phases, and there are separate deadlines by which a governor must subgrant or commit the funds awarded in each phase.

How much of these funds will my district receive?

- ARRA provides that education funds will be disbursed to LEAs either by formula or by competitive grants. The [side-by-side document](#) published by Learning Point Associates is a good reference to use to understand which funds will be distributed to districts by formula and which by competitive grants.
- Most of the funds for existing federal programs have been disbursed to states. ED also has released estimates for each state’s stabilization funds. ED also has released estimates for Title I allocations to school districts. The funds for each state and estimated Title I allocations can be easily searched in the Learning Point Associates [Fund Finder](#) on the ERRC website.

What information is there about what my state is doing with ARRA funds?

Learning Point Associates has compiled information published by governors' offices, state educational agencies, and media outlets. Find [state-by-state information](#) on the Learning Point ERRC website.

What is the application process? Where can I find state applications for ARRA funds?

- Funds provided for existing federal programs under ARRA do not require an application to ED for the first wave of funds to be distributed to the state education agency. States are required to submit information about how they will meet the reporting and accountability requirements in order to receive the second wave of funds. ED will release additional guidance to help states satisfy this requirement.
- In order for a state to receive funds under the SFSF, the governor of each state must submit an application to ED. State applications must provide assurances that they will address the four reform areas of teacher effectiveness and equitable distribution; collection and use of data; standards and assessments; and support for struggling schools. [Assurance issues](#) are detailed on the ERRC website.
- States have begun submitting applications. ED publishes the [current applications](#) that it has received at its website.
- In order for LEAs to receive SFSF funds, they must submit an application to the governor. In their application, the LEA must assure that it will (1) administer the program in accordance with all applicable statutes and regulations, and (2) use fiscal control and

fund accounting procedures that will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, the funds (*Guidance on the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Program*, p. 16).

Where can I find additional district resources for ARRA?

- **American Association of School Administrators** (AASA) is providing members with a page that has up-to-date information about this important legislation, including webinars, advocacy letters, and announcements to members.
- **National School Boards Association** (NSBA) is providing a variety of resources on the stimulus plan.
- **National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities**. Information from the stimulus plan that is specific to school modernization and school construction tax credits will be posted at the Clearinghouse website as it becomes available.
- **New America Foundation** has compiled a spreadsheet of distributions to districts and conducted an **analysis of the 50 largest school districts** as examples.
- **PBS NewsHour**. Are your students concerned about the economy? The \$787 billion economic recovery act is a great moment to teach what happens in a recession and how the government hopes to get the economy back on track. PBS is providing responses from three teacher experts to typical questions from teachers on teaching students about the stimulus plan.
- **National Education Association** (NEA) provides a variety of resources and fact sheets on the economic recovery plan.

How can I contact the Department of Education with my specific questions?

(*Note: If you are requesting information on ARRA, please write ARRA in the subject line of the e-mail.*)

- Please click to forward your questions or concerns about the **State Fiscal Stabilization Fund**.
- Please click to forward your questions or concerns about **Title I, Part A, Recovery Funds for Grants to Local Education Agencies**.
- Please click to forward your questions or concerns about **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Recovery Funds for Services to Infants, Toddlers, Children and Youth with Disabilities**.
- You can also e-mail your questions on any related topic to **Learning Point Associates** and we will respond promptly.