

## What Resources Are Available to Help Leverage Funds for Lasting Change?

**What information is provided on the use and purpose of the four assurances to be used with ARRA funds?**

**What are some ideas on how states and districts can use funds for creative and innovative activities?**

**How can Learning Point Associates help districts with Assurance 1—Teacher Effectiveness and Equitable Distribution?**

**How can Learning Point Associates help districts with Assurance 2—Data Collection?**

**How can Learning Point Associates help districts with Assurance 3—Standards and Assessments?**

**How can Learning Point Associates help districts with Assurance 4—Support for Struggling Schools?**

**What information is provided on the use and purpose of the four assurances to be used with ARRA funds?**

- ARRA requires that in their applications for stabilization funds, states must provide assurances that they will take action to address teacher effectiveness and equitable distribution; collection and use of data; standards and assessments; and support for struggling schools. More information on these four reform areas can be found in the [guidance](#) and its [modifications](#) issued by ED and on the [ERRC website](#).
- In a [letter to governors](#), ED indicated that “*states are not required to demonstrate progress in order to get phase two Stabilization funds.* [emphasis added] We are only asking states to ensure that states have in place systems to report on final metrics that are developed through rulemaking so that parents, teachers, and policymakers have clear and consistent information about where our schools and students stand. For each metric, a state would need to demonstrate that it collects the required data, and that it will make the data easily accessible to the public. While establishing the systems and processes to report these metrics will have costs, states have received and will continue to receive substantial funds with which to help defray these costs (e.g., Statewide Data Systems, Grants for State Assessments, administration portion of all formula grants). If a state cannot report the final developed metrics, it would submit a plan detailing how it would report this information by September 30, 2011.”
- During briefings in conjunction with the release of its guidance, ED indicated that these four reform areas will provide a foundation against which future funds will be disbursed. For example, if ED determines that a state has not made sufficient progress, that state may be ineligible for funds from the Race to the Top program that will be administered by ED. ED indicated that these issues also will play a prominent role in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

## **What are some ideas on how states and districts can use funds for creative and innovative activities?**

Many states and districts are seeking specific examples of how they can use the funds provided under ARRA. Guidance recently published by ED contains specific examples, as do the materials on ED's website for each program. The following are some examples, and in April 2009 ED released more specific guidance on allowable activities.

- [Fact sheets and guidance](#) for the various programs funded under ARRA on ED's website
- [Title I](#)
- [Title I School Improvement Fund](#)
- [Impact Aid](#)
- [Educational Technology state grants](#) (Ed Tech)
- [Homeless children and youth education](#) (McKinney-Vento)
- [Teacher Incentive Fund](#)
- [Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants](#)
- [IES Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems](#)
- [IDEA Parts B and C](#)

Learning Point Associates works in partnership with ED through the federal contracts that it administers. TQ Center, Great Lakes East, and Great Lakes West are developing resources to help states identify creative and innovative activities that can be funded with ARRA dollars. Announcements will be posted on the [ERRC](#) when new resources become available.

## **How can Learning Point Associates help districts with Assurance 1—Teacher Effectiveness and Equitable Distribution?**

**Managing Educator Talent.** Districts and schools must keep successful teachers in their classroom and skilled leaders at the helm. Learning Point Associates applies our nationally recognized expertise in educator quality issues and have 25 years of experience in research, evaluation, and direct practice to find solutions to the challenges of educator shortages, attrition, and quality.

For additional assistance with this assurance and access to our resources, please visit the [National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality](#) and the [ERRC Teacher Effectiveness and Equitable Distribution](#) page.

## How can Learning Point Associates help districts with Assurance 2— Data Collection?

**Data Workshops.** Learning Point Associates provides a two-day workshop that enables school leadership teams to build a foundation on research and data to drive school improvement decisions. The teams engage in the analysis and interpretation of their own data and translate the findings into specific, measurable improvement goals to enhance school improvement planning, promote student learning, and improve achievement.

**Using Data for Improvement.** Schools, districts, and state education agencies collect a great many data on student demographics and achievement. Interpreting these data correctly and understanding their power are essential to implementing targeted, thoughtful improvements.

**District and School Improvement Audits.** To improve student achievement, school districts need (1) high-quality information, (2) guidance on how to use that information to achieve reform, and (3) situation-specific improvement plans that parents, community leaders, and school and district officials all embrace. Learning Point Associates delivers district improvement audits that bring these missing pieces to schools and districts across the country to produce districtwide improvement plans that improve student achievement. We have extensive audit experience in districts across the United States, as well as a U.S. territory, including districts with a large percentage of English language learners (ELLs) and students from low-income families.

**Surveys of Enacted Curriculum.** The Surveys of Enacted Curriculum (SEC) are powerful tools that allow administrators to analyze, measure, and refine what is taught in the classroom. Designed for K–12 teachers, they provide a process for measuring the following:

- What is being taught to students

- How it is being taught

- What students are expected to know and be able to do with the lessons

Learning Point Associates offers a variety of professional development workshops designed around the use of the Surveys of Enacted Curriculum.

**Additional guidance and suggested resources** on this assurance appear elsewhere on our website.

## How can Learning Point Associates help districts with Assurance 3— Standards and Assessments?

**Curriculum Alignment.** Districts are facing increasingly complex demands. More districts are considering how to better meet the needs of all students. Learning Point Associates has resources that districts need in order to address this issue. A well-aligned curriculum can improve student performance on standardized tests and foster collaboration and communication among teachers. We customize our curriculum alignment process to meet the needs of your district.

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## **How can Learning Point Associates help districts with Assurance 4—Support for Struggling Schools?**

**Collaborative Improvement Planning and Consulting Services.** Learning Point Associates offers collaborative improvement and consulting services customized to meet the needs of districts and schools. We do not walk in with the answers in hand, we don't sell a product, and we don't apply a one-size-fits-all solution. We bring our expertise in research, policy, and practice along with our collaborative work style to develop improvement plans and solve real problems *with* our clients, not *for* our clients. Together, we create a framework for continued improvement.

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