



Building Blocks

A Resource Guide for K-12 ARRA Education Funds



The \$787 billion stimulus package that Congress passed in February provides an unprecedented \$115 billion for education— funneling funds into public schools, universities and early childhood programs. This is a historic opportunity to reform education and modernize the technology infrastructure of our schools - a chance to make short-term investments that will have far-reaching results.

In this special Educator Resource Guide, we've compiled information from various sources to assist administrators in understanding the funds available to them and make the best possible use of these funds.

AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) AND EDUCATION STIMULUS FUNDS

ARRA provides billions of dollars to strengthen education through the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF); Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA); Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); Pell Grants; Federal Work-Study; and other programs. School Districts generally have up to two years to obligate these funds. There are four principles that guide the distribution and use of ARRA funds.

Guiding Principles

1. Spend funds quickly to save and create jobs.
2. Ensure transparency, reporting and accountability.
3. Improve student achievement through reform.
4. Invest one-time funds thoughtfully - avoid "funding cliff".

However, from an education allotment standpoint, the third and fourth are the most principles:

Improve student achievement through school improvement and reform.

ARRA funds should be used to help students from all backgrounds achieve high standards, and address four specific areas that are authorized under bipartisan education legislation – including the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the America Competes Act of 2007:

1. 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
2. Establishing pre-K to college and career data systems that track progress and foster continuous improvement
3. Making improvements in teacher effectiveness and in the equitable distribution of qualified teachers for all students, particularly students who are most in need



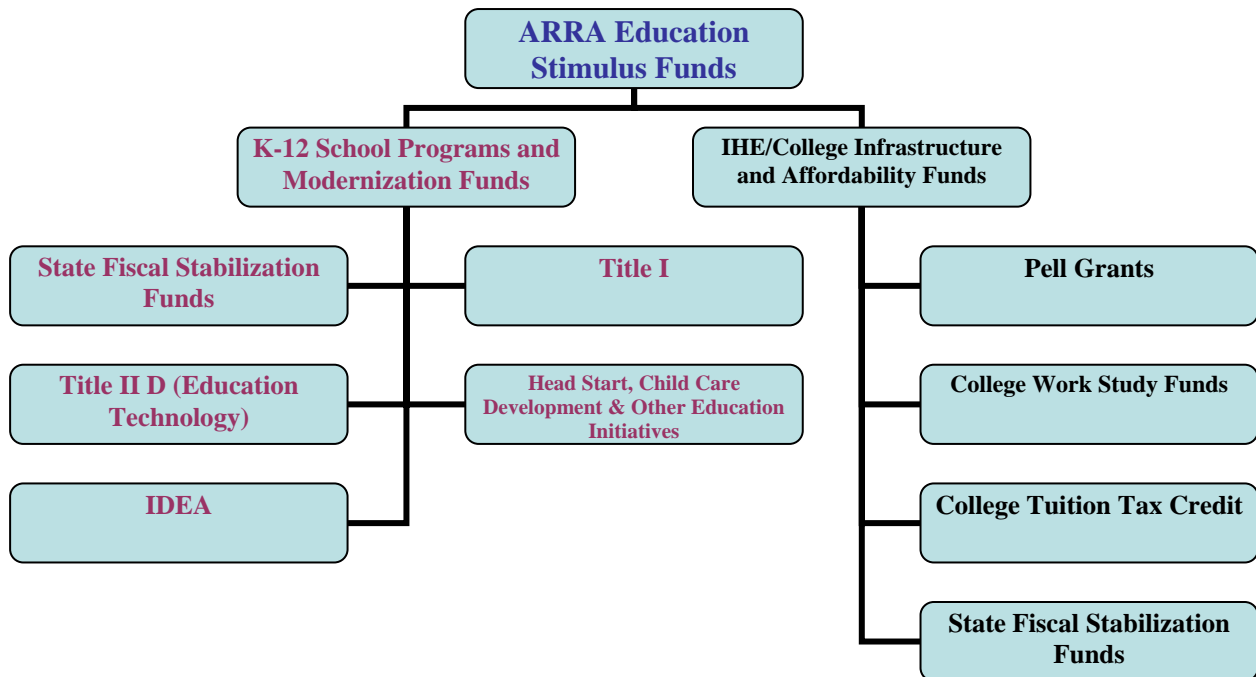
4. Providing intensive support and effective interventions for the lowest-performing schools

Invest one-time ARRA funds thoughtfully to minimize the "funding cliff".

ARRA represents a historic infusion of funds that is expected to be temporary. Depending on the program, these funds are available for only two to three years. These funds should be invested in ways that do not result in unsustainable continuing commitments after the funding expires.

The overall goal is to stimulate the economy in the short-term and invest wisely, using these funds to improve schools, raise achievement, drive reforms and produce better results for children and young people for the long-term health of our nation.

Below is a brief description of the ARRA funds available for Education under various categories





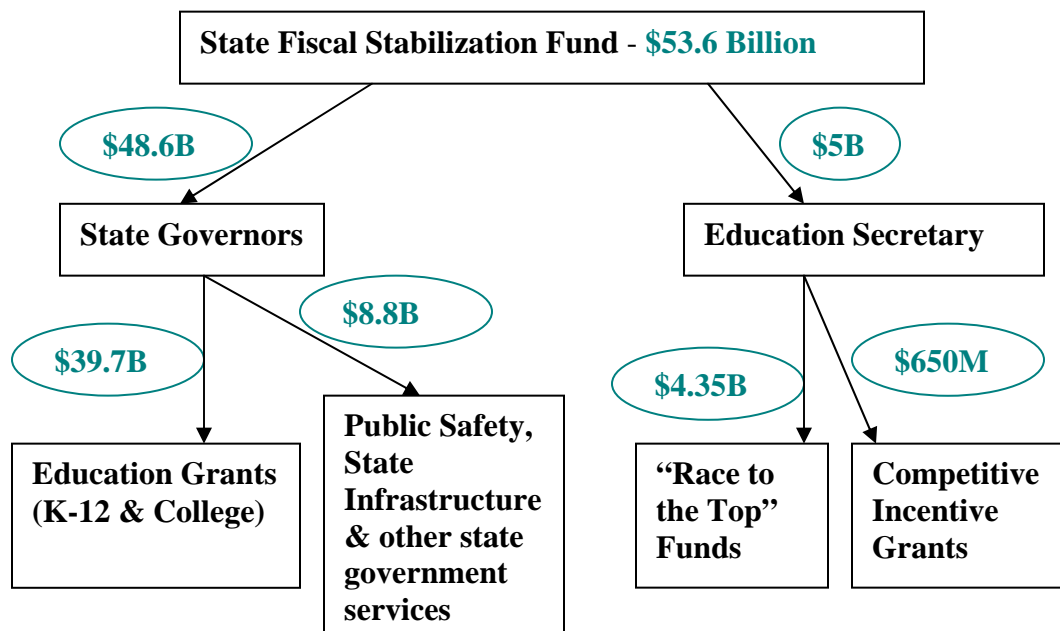
K-12 School Programs and Modernization Funds

- **State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF)**

Funds Available: \$56.3 Billion

The SFSF funds will be provided to states to help avert education cuts. This money will be given to states in exchange for a commitment to begin advancing education reforms. School systems have discretion to use some of this money for school modernization.

The State Fiscal Stabilization Fund program is a new one-time appropriation of funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Of the amount appropriated, monies will be distributed by formula under the SFSF program in exchange for a commitment to advance essential education reforms to benefit students from early learning through post-secondary education. These funds will help stabilize state and local government budgets in order to minimize and avoid reductions in education, teachers and professors. The program may also help support the modernization, renovation, and repair of school and college facilities.





- **Title I (Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title I, part A) Funds**

Funds Available: \$13 Billion

Title I funds are used to provide additional academic support and learning opportunities to help low-achieving children master challenging curricula and meet state standards in core academic subjects. Fund expenses include personnel, materials and program evaluation expenses. Title I funds may be used for children from pre-school age to high school, but most of the students served (65 percent) are in grades 1 through 6; another 12 percent are in pre-school and kindergarten programs.

The \$13 billion funding package provides:

- ***Title I-A Grants to LEAs – Local Education Agencies (approx. \$10 billion)***
This money is designed to ensure that schools with high percentages of students living in poverty can meet challenging academic standards. Title I-A funds may be used for targeted assistance to enable eligible students to achieve the state's standards or for school-wide programs focused on improving academic outcomes for all students in Title I-eligible schools.
- ***School Improvement Grants (approx. \$3 billion)***
This money is designed to provide support for schools that have been identified under NCLB requirements for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring.

- **Title II-D (Enhancing Education through Technology) Funds**

Funds Available: \$650 Million

The primary goal of this program – also known as Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) – is to improve student achievement through the use of technology in elementary and secondary schools. Additional goals include helping all students become technologically literate by the end of the 8th grade and, through the integration of technology with both teacher training and curriculum development, establishing research-based instructional methods that can be widely implemented.



- **IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Parts B & C) Funds**

Funds Available: \$12.2 Billion

IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) funds are made available to assist in meeting the costs of providing special education and related services to children with disabilities. Funds under this program provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with disabilities. Permitted expenditures include the salaries of special education teachers and costs associated with related services personnel, such as speech therapists and psychologists, materials and interventions for use with students, and evaluation and monitoring costs. These funds include the following:

- **Part B, Grants to States** (approx. \$11.3 billion)
This money is designed to improve teaching, learning, and results for students with disabilities, ages 3-21. Half this money will be awarded to states by the end of March, 2009 and the other half by October 1, 2009.
- **Part B, Grants to Preschools** (approx. \$400 million)
This money is designed to improve education and address developmental concerns for children with disabilities, ages 3-5. Half this money will be awarded to states by the end of March, 2009 and the other half by October 1, 2009.
- **Part C, Grants for Infants and Families** (approx. \$500 million)
Full information on IDEA Part C, Early Intervention Services, has not yet been released.

- **Head Start, Child Care Development and other Education Initiatives**

Funds Available: \$5 Billion

The funds are reserved for programs like including Early Head Start, child care block grants and programs for infants with disabilities. (Includes HHS programs) along with other education investments, including pay for performance, data systems, teacher quality investments, technology grants, vocational rehab, work study, and Impact Aid.



K-12 EDUCATION STIMULUS FUNDS & EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

The objective behind the funding available for K-12 is target a one-time money investment in education to expand opportunities for online courses, train teachers to teach online, and build the technology infrastructure for now and into the future. Schools must promote the use of technology both internally and externally in a manner consistent with the National Technology Standards. Internally, educators must understand that access to and the ability to use technology is increasingly a critical component of personal empowerment. Externally schools must utilize technology to communicate and engage with our communities.

The dedicated funds available for technology infrastructure improvements in schools, as part of this one time investment, are through school improvement funds available under

Title I funds: \$3 Billion

Title II D funds: \$ 650 Million

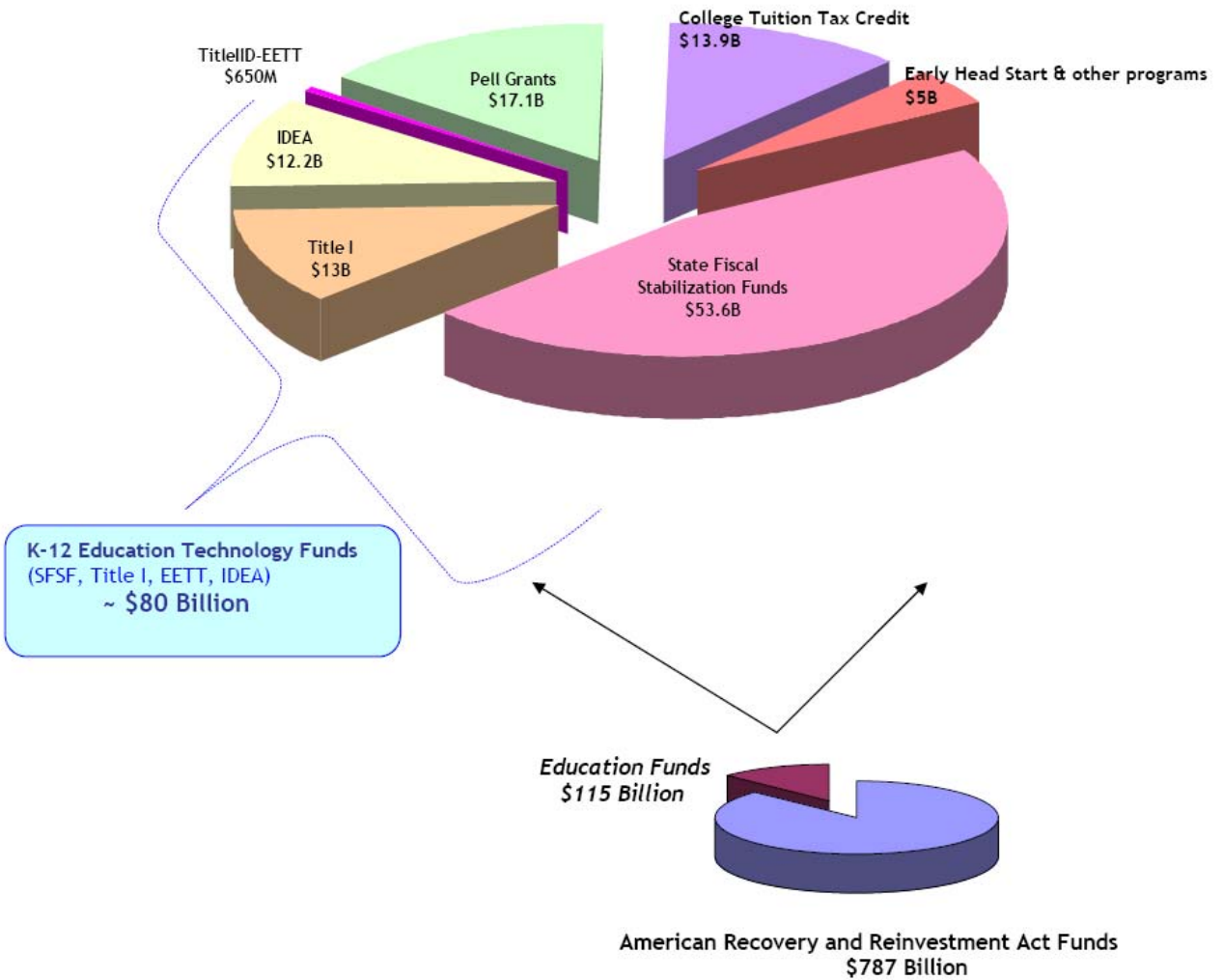
However, there are more categories under which funds can be obtained for acquiring new technology in schools by fulfilling other criteria as listed by the department of education. The matrix below lists the other potential categories.

FUNDING CATEGORY	TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	POTENTIAL K-12 EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY FUNDS AVAILABILITY
STATE FISCAL STABILIZATION FUNDS	\$53.6 B	x
TITLE I FUNDS	\$13 B	x
TITLE II D FUNDS	\$650 M	x
IDEA FUNDS	\$12.2 B	x
EARLY CHILDOOD START&OTHER INITIATIVES	\$5 B	
PELL GRANTS	\$17.1 B	
COLLEGE TUITION TAX CREDIT	\$ 13.9 B	
COLLEGE WORK STUDY PROGRAM	\$200 M	

Educated Decisions, Made Simple

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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Education Funds - \$115 Billion





General ARRA Web Resources

- US Department of Education
<http://www.ed.gov/fund/landing.jhtml?src=rt>
- U. S. Department of Education ARRA Website:
<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html>
- Learning Point Associates Education Recovery and Investment Center
<http://www.learningpt.org/recovery>

Email specific questions

- SFSF Questions: State.fiscal.fund@ed.gov
- IDEA Questions: IDEArecoverycomments@ed.gov
- Title I Questions: oese@ed.gov
- Inspector General Questions: rich.rasa@ed.gov
- Independent Living and Vocational Rehabilitation Questions:
RSARecoverActComments@ed.gov

Grant Related Resources

- **U.S. Dept. of Ed. Grant Forecast Center** <http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html>
Listing of competitive grant opportunities through the USDE.
- **Grants and Grant writing** -- <http://www.eduscapes.com/tap/topic94.htm>
A well-done collection of links to grant sites and information
- **Grant Resources** -- <http://www.proposalwriter.com/grantsubjects.html>
Great website with lots of links to resources
- **Grant Proposals** -- <http://www.grantproposal.com>
A comprehensive site on proposal writing. Includes an overview, inquiry and cover letters, standard components of a proposal, a sample proposal, and advice from funders.
- **Grant Writing Tips** -- <http://www.k12grants.org/tips.html>
Find out how to write a successful grant on this website. Explore the website for articles and links about getting grants.
- **Grant Writing Tips** -- <http://www.schoolgrants.org/index.htm>
Find out how to write a successful grant on this website. Explore the website for articles and links about getting grants.
- **Foundation Center** -- <http://www.fdncenter.org/index.html>
The "Gateway" to philanthropy on the World Wide Web, this site offers online assistance with locating foundations and proposal writing.