# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Title I, Part A Recovery Funds for Grants to Local Education Agencies

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## Overview of *ARRA*

**Principles:**

**Spend funds quickly to save and create jobs.** *ARRA* funds will be distributed quickly to states, LEAs and other entities in order to avert layoffs and create jobs. States and LEAs in turn are urged to move rapidly to develop plans for using funds, consistent with the law's reporting and accountability requirements, and to promptly begin spending funds to help drive the nation's economic recovery.

**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.

**Awarding Title I, Part A Recovery Funds**

The Department plans to award 50 percent of each state's Title I, Part A recovery funds by the end of March 2009. These funds will be awarded under each state's existing approved *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)* Consolidated State Application. No new or amended application will be required to receive this portion of the funds. However, in order to receive the remaining Title I, Part A recovery funds, a state must submit, for review and approval by the Department, an amendment to its Consolidated Application that addresses how it will meet the recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the *ARRA*.

The Title I, Part A *ARRA* awards will be in addition to the regular FY 2009 Title I, Part A grant awards that the Department plans to make on July 1 and Oct. 1, 2009. Together, these four grant awards (i.e., the two phases of the Title I, Part A recovery funds, and the two phases of the regular FY 2009 Title I, Part A funds) will constitute a state's total FY 2009 Title I, Part A allocation.

The fact that Title I, Part A recovery funds are FY 2009 funds does not preclude a state from awarding some or all of these funds to an LEA on the basis of existing, approved LEA applications.

In accordance with the goals of the *ARRA*, the Department encourages states to award Title I, Part A recovery funds to their LEAs as quickly as possible, consistent with prudent management, so that LEAs can begin using the funds. Similarly, an LEA should use its Title I, Part A recovery funds expeditiously but sensibly. Note that, in the absence of a waiver, an LEA must obligate at least 85 percent of its total FY 2009 Title I, Part A funds (including *ARRA* funds) by Sept. 30, 2010. Any remaining FY 2009 Title I, Part A funds will be available for obligation until Sept. 30, 2011.

**Uses of Title I, Part A Recovery Funds**

LEAs may use their Title I, Part A recovery funds consistent with the Title I, Part A statutory and regulatory requirements, including the requirements to provide equitable services to eligible private school students. Uses should be aligned with the core goals of *ARRA* to save and create jobs and to advance reforms.

Because the recovery funds constitute a large increase in Title I, Part A funding that will likely not be available at the same level beyond Sept. 30, 2011, schools and LEAs will have a unique opportunity to improve teaching and learning and should focus these funds on short-term investments with the potential for long-term benefits, rather than make ongoing commitments that they might not be able to sustain once recovery funds are expended.

Congress in its *ARRA* conference report indicated its intent that grantees use some of their Title 1 funds for early childhood programs and activities. The Administration is committed over the long term to expanding early childhood educational opportunities and creating a more seamless web of high-quality services for parents and children. In coming weeks, the Department will provide additional guidance on opportunities to use *ARRA* funds to expand high-quality early childhood educational services.

Examples of potential uses of the Title I, Part A recovery funds that are allowable under Title I and consistent with *ARRA* principles:

> Establishing a system for identifying and training highly effective teachers to serve as instructional leaders in Title I schoolwide programs and modifying the school schedule to allow for collaboration among the instructional staff;
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> Establishing intensive, year-long teacher training for all teachers and the principal in a Title I elementary school in corrective action or restructuring status in order to train teachers to use a new reading curriculum that aggressively works on improving students' oral language skills and vocabulary or, in some other way, builds teachers' capacity to address academic achievement problems;
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> Strengthen and expand early childhood education by providing resources to align a district-wide Title I pre-K program with state early learning standards and state content standards for grades K–3 and, if there is a plan for sustainability beyond 2010–11, expanding high-quality Title I pre-K programs to larger numbers of young children;
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> Providing new opportunities for Title I schoolwide programs for secondary school students to use high-quality, online courseware as supplemental learning materials for meeting mathematics and science requirements;

Using longitudinal data systems to drive continuous improvement efforts focused on improving achievement in Title I schools;

Providing professional development to teachers in Title I targeted assistance programs on the use of data to inform and improve instruction for Title I-eligible students;

Using reading or mathematics coaches to provide professional development to teachers in Title I targeted assistance programs; and

Establishing or expanding fiscally sustainable extended learning opportunities for Title I-eligible students in targeted assistance programs, including activities provided before school, after school, during the summer, or over an extended school year.

**Fiscal Issues**

Maintenance of effort: With prior approval from the secretary of education, a state or LEA may count expenditures of SFSF used for elementary or secondary education as non-federal funds for purposes of determining whether the state or LEA has met the Title I, Part A maintenance of effort requirement. This may reduce the incidence of LEAs failing to maintain fiscal effort and the need to seek a waiver from the Department.

Supplement, not supplant: the Department may not waive the Title I, Part A "supplement, not supplant" requirement. Note, however, that in certain circumstances, including cases of severe budget shortfalls, an LEA may be able to establish compliance with the "supplement, not supplant" requirement, even if it uses Title I, Part A funds to pay for allowable costs that were previously paid for with state or local funds. (For additional information, see Title I Fiscal Issues Non-Regulatory Guidance, available at: http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/fiscalguid.pdf [PDF, 256K].)

Comparability: the Department may not waive the Title I, Part A comparability requirement.