

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Overview of ARRA Title I, Part A Recovery Funds: \$10B



Frequently Asked Questions: Title I, Part A Recovery Funds

In addition to the new programs established through the ARRA, the U.S. Department of Education will be temporarily increasing funding for a wide array of existing programs, including programs authorized under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

What are the ARRA Title I, Part A Recovery Funds intended to accomplish?

The ARRA will infuse \$10 billion into the Title I, Part A program to support districts and schools that have high concentrations of students from families living in poverty. Title I funds supported through the ARRA should be aligned with the overall goals of the ARRA and can be used in ways consistent with statutory and regulatory requirements governing Title I, Part A. The U.S. Department of Education provides the following examples of potential activities that are allowable under Title I, Part A and are well aligned to the ARRA:

- creating systems to identify and train highly effective teachers;
- establishing intensive professional development for teachers and principals at elementary schools in corrective-action or restructuring status, with a focus on reading and language skills;
- expanding early education and aligning pre-K and K–3 learning standards;
- using high-quality online tools to supplement math and science learning;
- using longitudinal data systems to drive continuous improvement efforts and assisting teachers on how to use data to inform instruction;
- utilizing reading and mathematics coaches to provide professional development to teachers; and
- establishing or expanding extended learning opportunities for Title I students.

Each state must reserve 4% of its ARRA Title I, Part A funds for school improvement activities in accordance with Section 1003(a) of the ESEA. Of that 4%, at least 95% of funds must be distributed directly to local education agencies for school improvement activities.

Who is eligible to receive funding under the ARRA Title I, Part A Recovery Funds program?

The ARRA Title I, Part A funds will be distributed to states according to statutory formulas that are based primarily on poverty estimates and the cost of education in each state.

How are the ARRA Title I, Part A Recovery Funds accessed?

The funds will be disbursed in two phases. Half of the \$10 billion will be awarded to states using states' existing and approved Title I Consolidated State Applications, without requiring new or amended state applications. However, before states will receive the second \$5 billion in funds, they must submit an amendment to their current Consolidated State Applications on how they will meet the recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the ARRA.

When will the ARRA Title I, Part A Recovery Funds awards be made available?

\$5 billion will be awarded to states by the end of March 2009. The remaining \$5 billion will be awarded in September or October 2009, pending approval of recordkeeping and reporting amendments to existing Title I Consolidated State Applications.

The regular FY 2009 appropriations for Title I will also be distributed to states and localities between July 1 and October 1, 2009. These funds will be in addition to amounts received under the ARRA. Local education agencies must obligate at least 85% of regular Title I, Part A and ARRA funds by September 30, 2010. Any remaining funds will be available for obligation until September 30, 2011.

ACT's College Readiness System

Longitudinal Assessment, Instruction & School System Improvement

ACT provides a fully aligned, research-based system of solutions that help states and districts prepare every student for college and work. Our College Readiness Standards™ and College Readiness Benchmarks define college readiness based on what postsecondary educators indicate is important for students to know and based on actual student success in credit-bearing college-entry courses. The Standards and Benchmarks together represent a single academic expectation for all students, regardless of whether they go on to college or the workplace after high school.

The longitudinal assessment component of the system—EXPLORE®, PLAN®, and the ACT®—is directly tied to and aligned with the Standards and Benchmarks. These assessments allow states to monitor students' college readiness beginning in eighth grade so that necessary interventions can be made.

QualityCore®, the instructional improvement component, offers rigorous model high school courses. QualityCore course objectives focus on the course-level knowledge and skills needed for college readiness. As such, they are tied to the ACT College Readiness Standards measured by EXPLORE, PLAN, and the ACT.

For school systems, ACT and the National Center for Educational Achievement offer CoreWork Diagnostics—a school system improvement service designed to help K-12 educators set and attain higher standards as they work to improve college and career readiness.

