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MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Nevada School Districts and District Title I Coordinators

FROM: Kathy St. Clair, State Director of Title I

SUBJECT: Information About Nevada's Share of ARRA Title I, Part A and School Improvement 1003(g) Funding

As you are aware, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) awarded funding to support education in Nevada through several different funding streams. A portion of the funding appropriated through the act, approximately \$70.6 million, will be allocated to all seventeen Nevada school districts to support your Title I programs. This funding, which will be awarded to each district on a formula-driven basis, will be in addition to the regular Title I funds your district will receive as its annual Title I allocation. Another portion of the funding, the amount of which has yet to be announced, will be awarded to Nevada school districts with schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. The purpose of this memo is to inform you of some of the possible uses for the new funding, to outline what is currently known about the reporting requirements for the ARRA funding, to remind you of some of the rules and regulations that will apply to this funding, and to describe how the funds will be made available through ePAGE, Nevada's electronic grants management system.

Potential Allowable Uses for Title I, Part A Stimulus Funds:

Two of the main intents of the ARRA are:

1. To help improve teaching and learning for students most at risk of failing to meet state academic achievement standards, and
2. To serve more students beyond the approximately 18 million currently served nationwide with Title I funding.



What follows are some suggestions for allowable activities for spending funds available under the Title I, Part A stimulus funding, keeping in mind that uses should be aligned with the core goals of ARRA to save and create jobs and to advance reforms:

- 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 school's instructional staff.
- Strengthening and expanding early childhood education by providing resources for high-quality programs that align with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) guidelines and/or State-funded Pre-K:
 - Expand existing high-quality preschool programs, including State-funded Pre-K and/or Head Start programs currently serving your community, to serve larger number of students;
 - Create new high-quality preschool programs (i.e., additional Pre-K sites);
 - Provide salaries for Early Childhood Education (ECE) certified teachers;
 - Improve the quality of existing preschool programs to meet higher standards (i.e., align with NV State Pre-K standards and state content standards for grades K-3);
 - Provide professional development (PD) to improve the quality of early childhood programs, including joint PD for Pre-K/K-3 teachers and/or community-based early childhood education providers on developmentally appropriate practices;
 - Provide strategies to help children manage the transition from preschool to Kindergarten;
 - Expand programs to full day and/or full year to support working families;
 - Provide full day developmentally appropriate Kindergarten;
 - Leasing or renting space in privately owned facilities (i.e., community-based ECE programs, etc.);
 - Provide summer programs in schools and in high-quality community-based childcare and/or Head Start or State-funded Pre-Ks for the summer prior to kindergarten entry; or
 - Provide funding for Even Start staff and programs (Early Childhood Education, Parenting, Adult Education and Interactive Literacy Activities) that were discontinued for the 2009-2010 school year due to federal funding cuts. Affected programs are located in Carson City School District, Churchill County School District and Nye County School District.
- Providing new opportunities for Title I schoolwide programs for secondary school students to use high-quality, online courseware as supplemental learning materials for meeting academic requirements in reading, math, or science.
- Establishing intensive, year-long training and support for the teachers and principal in a Title I school identified in corrective action or restructuring status that builds the staff's capacity to address academic achievement problems.

- Provide incentives to attract and retain effective teachers and administrators to the LEA's highest need Title I schools. This could include such activities as signing bonuses and the hiring of mentors for new teachers so that they may be retained at these high-need schools over time.

The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) has indicated that further guidance on other possible uses of the Title I, Part A stimulus funding will be available early in April. The NDE will provide such information to you as soon as it becomes available.

Accessing ARRA Funds through ePAGE:

The ARRA funds for Title I, Part A; School Improvement; Neglected; Delinquent; Homeless; Title II, Part D; and IDEA will be available to the districts through ePAGE. Currently in ePAGE we have the following applications:

- Consolidated Application/TITLE I:
 - School Information, Title I
 - Schoolwide, Title I
 - Targeted Assistance, Title I
 - Neglected
 - Delinquent
 - Migrant Education
 - School Improvement-1003(a)
- Consolidated Application:
 - Title II-A
 - Title II-D
 - Title III – LEP
 - Title III – Immigrant
 - Safe and Drug-Free Schools
 - Title V
 - Homeless
- School Improvement-1003(g)
- Competitive Application
- IDEA (DIG)

In order to track the ARRA funds and maintain transparency of these funds, the following new applications will be created in ePAGE:

- ARRA Consolidated Application/TITLE I:
 - School Information, Title I
 - Schoolwide, Title I
 - Targeted Assistance, Title I
 - Neglected
 - Delinquent
 - School Improvement-1003(a)

- ARRA Consolidated Application:
 - Title II-D
 - Homeless
- ARRA IDEA (formula)
- ARRA School Improvement (competitive)

To ensure separate accountability, the NDE will flow-through the ARRA, Title I funds through the NDE's electronic ePAGE grant system. The new ARRA, Title I applications are currently being created by the organization providing technical support for ePAGE, and should be available for the NDE to test in April. The applications will be open for districts to input once the NDE receives the funds and creates the work program authority to distribute the funds within the state system. The initial information that will need to be uploaded in order for the districts to receive the funding include the following:

- School Information Section (for Title I, Part A only)
- Spending Plan (budget summary)
- Supplemental Schedule (budget detail)

After the budgets are approved by the NDE, the districts will be able to request the funds.

The Spending Plan Details Page will **not** be available at this time. This section of ePAGE is where the statistical information and narratives are included, and this is where the NDE will capture the reporting information required by the USDE. Since the reporting requirements are not known at this time, districts will not have to respond to these questions or narratives until the NDE identifies the information required for reporting purposes. It is projected that the NDE will have this information no later than July 1, 2009.

In a sense, each application will be approved by the NDE in two (2) separate reviews. The budget information will be reviewed first, and approximately two (2) months later the reporting and statistical information will be approved.

Potential Reporting Requirements for the ARRA, Title I, Part A Funds

In the fact sheets referenced earlier, the following reporting requirements on the use of the ARRA, Title I funding were outlined:

- Each state and LEA is responsible for ensuring that Title I recovery funds are used prudently and in accordance with the law.
- Each LEA receiving Title I Part A recovery funds shall report a school-by-school listing of per-pupil educational expenditures from state and local sources.
- The President and the Secretary are committed to ensuring that ARRA dollars are spent with an unprecedented level of transparency and accountability. Therefore, each state and LEA that receives Title I, Part A recovery funds must report on how those funds were spent.

While we await further guidance from the USDE, it would be appropriate for LEAs to begin to plan for potential reporting requirements relative to the ARRA, Title I Part A funds. Considering that there is an appetite for “an unprecedented level of transparency and accountability,” it would be prudent for LEAs to anticipate any potential reporting requests (e.g., data that indicates the impact of the funds, etc.) that are related to the use of the Title I Part A recovery funds.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Title I staff at the NDE should you have further questions about the use of the ARRA, Title I funds.

Attachment A - Frequently Asked Questions

Attachment B - Budget Account 2712, Supplement Not Supplant