



ISSUE BRIEF
ARRA Guidance

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On Wednesday, September 2, the Department of Education released new guidance on the use of *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA) Title I, Part A, and IDEA, Parts B and C funds. The guidance is intended to “support integrated planning to accelerate and advance school and district strategies and ARRA reform goals.” The guidance will also be used to support the collaboration of regular and special education. This guidance builds off of existing guidance issued in April 2009.

Title I, Part A

The guidance provides assistance to State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), and schools in determining how to identify, create, and structure opportunities and strategies to strengthen education, drive school reform, and improve the academic achievement of at-risk students using funds under Title I, Part A of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* made available through the ARRA.

Guidance includes information on how to use funds to operate a new school-wide program; how funds may be used to improve support and resources for ELL students; and allowable uses of funds to support district wide improvement strategies.

Guidance also suggests that Title I, Part A ARRA funds may be used to prepare low-achieving students to access college and career-ready courses; support teachers and school leaders in developing, implementing and analyzing assessments to inform instruction; attract and reward effective teachers to Title I schools; and plan and support rigorous interventions in the lowest achieving Title I schools.

IDEA, Part B

The guidance provides examples of potential uses of ARRA funds relevant to improving the education of students with and without disabilities. The guidance suggests that IDEA, Part B ARRA funds may be used to target adolescent literacy and math interventions; implement early childhood data systems; support dual certification for teachers; fund high quality induction programs for special education teachers; implement

school-wide behavior interventions; support secondary transition services; and support Response to Intervention.

IDEA, Part C

Finally the guidance for IDEA, Part C ARRA funds includes five framing questions for decision making and provides examples of potential uses of these funds to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

The guidance suggests that funds may be used to develop and examine data systems to track and accelerate program improvement; redesign Early Intervention Services (EIS) provider compensation systems to reward effectiveness; support EIS providers with professional development; and develop and support systems that track professional development opportunities that affect EIS.

Next Steps

The Department of Education will hold a webinar on September 14, 2009 to provide a joint overview of Title I and IDEA use of funds guidance.

Another webinar will be held on September 21, 2009 on ARRA reporting and Department specific guidance.

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/titlei-reform.pdf>,

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/idea-b-reform.pdf>,

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/idea-c-reform.pdf>,

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/titlei-idea-useoffunds.ppt>.