



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
**American Recovery
and Reinvestment Act**



The New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, is offering guidance to school districts regarding the IDEA recovery funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The IDEA recovery funds are also referred to as the IDEA stimulus funds. The *IDEA* recovery funds under *ARRA* will provide an unprecedented opportunity for Local Education Agencies (LEA) to implement innovative strategies to improve outcomes for children, and youths with disabilities while stimulating the economy. For more information regarding ARRA please go to <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html>

Goals of the ARRA

The overall goals of the *ARRA* are to stimulate the economy in the short term and invest in education and other essential public services to ensure the long-term economic health of our nation. Four principles guide the distribution and use of *ARRA* funds:

- Spend funds quickly to save and create jobs
- Improve student achievement through school improvement and reform
- Ensure transparency, reporting and accountability
- Invest one-time *ARRA* funds thoughtfully to minimize the "funding cliff" (inability to sustain project beyond September 30, 2011)

Awarding of IDEA Recovery Funds to school districts

- The United State Department of Education plans to award 50 percent of the *IDEA*, Part B Grants to States and Preschool Grants recovery funds to SEAs by the end of March 2009. The other 50 percent will be awarded by Oct. 1, 2009. The NHDOE, Bureau of Special Education will email to special education directors an application for IDEA recovery funds shortly. The NHDOE, Bureau of Special Education will make the *IDEA* Recovery Funds available to LEAs by the end of April 2009.
- A school district should use the *IDEA* recovery funds expeditiously. A school LEA should obligate the majority of these funds during school years 2008–09 and 2009–10 and the remainder during school year 2010–11. 50% of the IDEA Recovery funds will be available April 30, 2009 with the balance of the award available November 2009. This grant award will run through September 30, 2011.
- The NHDOE, Bureau of Special Education, will be creating separate accounts for the *IDEA* recovery funds. The IDEA recovery funds should not be included with the LEA's annual entitlement funds.

All information is the best available as of March 26, 2009 and is subject to change. Estimated funds may change significantly as federal agencies finalize allocations and grants are awarded



Use of IDEA Recovery Funds for LEAs

All *IDEA* recovery funds must be used consistent with the current *IDEA*, Part B statutory and regulatory requirements and applicable requirements in the *General Education Provisions Act (GEPA)* and the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR). An LEA must use *IDEA* recovery funds only for the excess costs of providing special education and related services to children with disabilities, except where *IDEA* specifically provides otherwise.

- The *IDEA* recovery funds constitute a large one-time increment in *IDEA*, Part B funding that offers states and LEAs a unique opportunity to improve teaching and learning and results for children with disabilities. Generally, funds should be used for short-term investments that have the potential for long-term benefits, rather than for expenditures the LEAs may not be able to sustain once the recovery funds are expended. Some possible uses of these limited-term *IDEA* recovery funds that are allowable under *IDEA* and aligned with the core reform goals for which states must provide assurances under State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) include:
 - Obtain state-of-the art assistive technology devices and provide training in their use to enhance access to the general curriculum for students with disabilities.
 - Provide intensive district-wide professional development for special education and regular education teachers that focuses on scaling-up, through replication, proven and innovative evidence-based school-wide strategies in reading, math, writing and science, and positive behavioral supports to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.
 - Develop or expand the capacity to collect and use data to improve teaching and learning.
 - Expand the availability and range of inclusive placement options for preschoolers with disabilities by developing the capacity of public and private preschool programs to serve these children.
 - Hire transition coordinators to work with employers in the community to develop job placements for youths with disabilities.

An LEA may (or in some cases must) use up to 15 percent of its total *IDEA*, Part B Grants to States and Preschool Grants for early intervening services for children in grades K through 12 who are not currently identified as children with disabilities, but who need additional academic and behavioral support to succeed in a general education environment. However, an LEA may use only up to 15 percent of its total allocation for Fiscal Year 2010 minus any amount (on a dollar-for-dollar basis) by which the LEA reduced its required state and local expenditures under section 613(a)(2)(C).

The New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education has developed a guidance sheet on how to spend the *IDEA* recovery funds.