



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

Summary of ARRA Formula Funds, LEA
Grants and Race to the Top

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act



ARRA Formula Funds

- **ARRA Formula Funds are provided directly to the LEAs with the expectation that the funds will help the state meet the following goals:**
- *Preparing all students for college and careers (standards, assessments, curriculum and programming);*
- *Developing and using high quality data systems;*
- *Increasing teacher effectiveness and ensuring an equitable distribution of qualified teachers; and*
- *Turning around the lowest-performing schools by ensuring a quality learning environment.*

ARRA Formula Funds

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF)

- Arkansas' Allocation – K12 Education: \$341,091,157
- As of November 30, \$63,890,380 has been reimbursed to LEAs
- Can be used on any allowable program or project in ESEA, IDEA, Perkins, and the Adult and Family Literacy Act.
- Can be used on new construction, modernization, renovation and repair projects.

ARRA Formula Funds

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) & IDEA Preschool

- Arkansas's allocation for IDEA: **\$112,177,929.00 (\$20,215,836 reimbursed)**
- Arkansas's allocation for IDEA PK: **\$5,565,646.00 (\$753,415.80 reimbursed)**
- Funds used to ensure that children with disabilities, including children aged three through five, have access to a free appropriate public education to meet each child's unique needs and prepare him or her for further education, employment, and independent living.

Title I

- Arkansas' Allocation for Title I: **\$111,143,080 (\$22,165,978 reimbursed)**
- Title I provides funds to local education agencies (LEAs) for schools that have high concentrations of students from families that live in poverty in order to help improve teaching and learning for students most at risk of failing to meet state academic achievement standards.

ARRA Formula Funds

- ADE has received plans for 248 LEAs (districts, charters, cooperative, state agencies).
- This represents approximately 90% of the LEAs in the state.
- Applications must tell how the funds will be spent and how the goals of ARRA will be met.

ARRA Grant Opportunities

Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT)

Arkansas's Allocation \$7,125,783 (28 LEAs funded)

Child Nutrition Equipment Assistance Grants

Arkansas's Allocation \$1,249,361 (106 LEAs funded)

Education for Homeless Children and Youth Grants

Arkansas's Allocation \$644,533 (14 LEAs funded)

Other grants provided through ARRA that will be forthcoming include:
School Improvement Grants, Innovation Grants and Teacher Incentive
Fund Grants.



Race to the Top 101

- \$4 billion in competitive grants to states (50% of funds to LEAs)
- Designed to accelerate coherent reforms across four assurance areas:
 - Standards and Assessments
 - Data Systems/Use of Data
 - Teachers and Leaders
 - Low-performing Schools
- Focus on overall state reform with RTTT as part of the picture. Integration is key.

RTTT Process and Timeline

- November 18: Final notice published
- December 8: Notice of intent to apply for Phase 1
- **January 19, 2010: Phase 1 applications due**
- **April 2010: Phase 1 awards announced**
- June 1, 2010: Phase 2 applications due
- September 2010: Phase 2 awards announced
- Legal requirement that funds must be obligated by September 30, 2010



Points and Weighting



- Competitive points assigned to the selection criteria and competitive priority, aggregating 500 points.
- Selection Criteria Points:
 - State Success Factors: 125 points
 - Standards and Assessments: 70 points
 - Data Systems to Support Instruction: 47 points
 - Great Teachers and Leaders: 138 points
 - Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools: 50 points
 - General Selection Criteria: 55 points
 - Emphasis on STEM Competitive Priority: 15 points, all or nothing

Priorities: Absolute, Competitive and Invitational

- Absolute: Comprehensive approach to education reform
- Competitive: Emphasis on STEM
- Invitational:
 - Innovations for Improving Early Learning Outcomes
 - Expansion and adaptation of statewide longitudinal data systems
 - P-20 coordination, vertical and horizontal alignment
 - School-level conditions for reform, innovation, and learning



State Success Factors (125 points)

- Articulating State’s education reform agenda and LEAs’ participation in it (*65 points*)
- Building strong statewide capacity to implement, scale up, and sustain proposed plans (*30 points*)
- Demonstrating significant progress in raising achievement and closing gaps (*30 points*)

Standards and Assessments (70 points)

- Developing and adopting common standards (40 points)
- Developing and implementing common, high-quality assessments (10 points)
- ✓ Supporting the transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments (20 points)

Data Systems to Support Instruction (47 points)

- Fully implementing a statewide longitudinal data system (24 points)
 - ✓ Accessing and using State data (5 points)
 - ✓ Using data to improve instruction (18 points)

Great Teachers and Leaders (138 points)

- Providing high-quality pathways for aspiring teachers and principals (21 points)
 - ✓ *Improving teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance (58 points)*
 - ✓ *Ensuring equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals (25 points)*
 - ✓ *Improving the effectiveness of teacher and principal preparation programs (14 points)*
 - ✓ *Providing effective support to teachers and principals (20 points)*



Turning Around Lowest-Achieving Schools (50 points)

- Intervening in the lowest-achieving schools and LEAs (10 points)
- Turning around the lowest-achieving schools (40 points)

General Selection Criteria (55 points)

- Making education funding a priority (*10 points*)
- Ensuring successful conditions for high-performing charters and other innovative schools (*40 points*)
- Demonstrating other significant reform conditions (*5 points*)



Current Steps

- 7 Community Meetings
- Stakeholder's Working Team
- Leadership Team
- Roundtable Discussions w/ Various Groups

Next Steps

- Dec 17: Draft preliminary MOU to LEAs
- Jan 3: Feedback on the MOU needed by COB
- Jan 4: FINAL preliminary MOU to LEAs
- Jan 5: CIV session to explain the MOU and participation
- Jan 8: MOU must be signed by the superintendent/director and board president (and local union leader, if applicable) by those LEAs that want to participate in the States plan.