



Education Service Center
Region VI

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**Title I, Part A Stimulus Funding from
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)**

This fact sheet pertains only to the Title I, Part A Stimulus/Recovery funds. **This information is subject to change.** Watch for updates and clarifications.

District Entitlement Amounts

Amounts can be found at the following website:

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/opge/formfund/generalinformation/entitlementsbyprogram.html>

Fund Codes for the Stimulus Programs: (Provided by Mary Nyert at TEA in the Division of Formula Funding)

Title I, A ----**285**

Title I, D Subpart 2---**285**

Title II, D ----**279** (scheduled to be out in the Fall of 2009)

School Improvement----**285** (scheduled to be out by October 2009)

School Improvement SIP Academy ---**286** (scheduled to be out by October 2009)

Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and Central Contractor Registration (CCR):

In order to apply for The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)—(Title Stimulus funds) USDE requires that grantees create and/or validate existing data. For more information on DUNS and CCR please see the TEA letter dated April 10, 2009 at the following website:

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/taa/discgrants041009.htm>

Applicant Designation Form (ADC Form):

To apply for the Title NCLB Stimulus funds, the district must log on to eGrants and fill out the ADC form to tell TEA that you are going to apply for these funds. This is scheduled to be out on April 15, 2009. As of right now, only Title I A and Title I, D Subpart 2 funds are available. Once the ADC form has been submitted the application for funding will be activated.

Planning for the Stimulus Funds:

Needs Assessment:

Districts along with their campuses should conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to determine the needs of the Title I campuses that will receive the stimulus funding. Districts/campuses should keep documentation concerning their needs assessment.

Parent Involvement:

Parents should be involved in the planning process and their needs assessed and activities planned. ALL Title I rules for parent involvement are to be adhered to.

Private Non-Profit School Participation:

Private Non-Profit Schools are eligible to participate in the Title I, A Stimulus/Recovery funding program. Rules and guidelines for regular Title I participation apply in working with Private Non-Profit participation.

4 Principles of the ARRA

- 1. Spend funds quickly to save and create jobs**
 - a. To help keep a job that would be subject to RIFF. Districts must document that funding for a position has dried up before Title I A Stimulus/Recovery money can be used.
 - b. In creating new jobs, be sure that if you hire additional personnel to work with students to improve student achievement, that in the hiring process the person understands and it is in their contract that this is for a 2 year period only.
- 2. Improve Student Achievement through School Improvement and Reform**
 - a. Making progress towards rigorous college- and career-ready standards and high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable for all students, including English language learners and students with disabilities;
 - b. Establishing pre-K to college and career data systems that track progress and foster continuous improvement;
 - c. Making improvements in teacher effectiveness and in the equitable distribution of qualified teachers for all students, particularly students who are most in need;
 - d. Providing intensive support and effective interventions for the lowest-performing schools.
- 3. Ensure transparency, reporting and accountability**
 - a. To prevent fraud and abuse, support the most effective uses of these funds, and accurately measure and track the results. The **recipients must publicly report** on how the funds are used. Funds are subject to additional and more rigorous reporting requirements than normally apply to grant recipients.
- 4. Invest one-time stimulus/recovery funds thoughtfully to minimize the “funding cliff”**
 - a. Funds are temporary
 - b. Depending on the program, the funds are available only for 2 years
Funds should be invested in ways that **do not** result in unsustainable continuing

Recommendations from USDE on planning/spending of recovery/stimulus funds:

1. Identifying and training highly effective teachers.
2. Intensive year long training for teachers and principals in Title I for corrective action or restructuring in order to train teachers in a new reading curriculum that aggressively works on improving students' oral language skills and vocabulary, or, in some other way, builds teachers' capacity to address academic achievement problems.
3. Strengthen and expand early childhood education by providing resources to align a district-wide Title I pre-K program with state early learning standards and state content standards for grades K-3 and, if there is a plan for sustainability beyond 2010-2011, expanding high-quality Title I pre-K programs to larger numbers of young children. Guidelines for using Title I funds for pre-K will be coming out soon that districts will need to follow.
4. Provide new opportunities for Title I schoolwide programs for secondary school students to use high-quality, online courseware as supplemental learning materials for meeting mathematics and science requirements. Another area is to look at career and college-readiness. (If a secondary campus is not currently a Title I campus and is Title I eligible, then in order to receive funding the secondary campus must follow all Title I guidelines in becoming a Title I campus)
5. Using longitudinal data systems to drive continuous improvement efforts focused on improving achievement in Title I schools.
6. Providing professional development to teachers in the use of data to inform and improve instruction for students.
7. Using reading or mathematics coaches to provide professional development to teachers in Title I programs.
8. Establishing or expanding fiscally sustainable extended learning opportunities for Title I-eligible students in targeted assistance programs, including activities provided before school, after school, during the summer, or over an extended school year.
9. **Title I A Stimulus/Recovery funds cannot pay for new building/construction projects** but may be possibly used for renovation such as a science lab. More information to come on this. (There was a separate grant for renovation and repair that was cut at conference committee. There may be some stabilization funds if approved by the governor. Be careful when talking about stimulus funds, because there are different stimulus funds out there and for different uses.)
10. You will need to be careful with outside vendors and predators. These people are aware of the funding. You need to be sure that you follow TEXAS guidelines for Title I and state/federal accountability. If you purchase products be sure that they align with your goals and objectives for student improvement and that it is included in campus plans. Spending must follow allowable use of funds as outlined in the OMB A-87 circular.

Personnel:

1. Funds may be used to help keep a job that would be subject to RIFF. Districts must document that funding for a position has dried up before Title I A Stimulus/Recovery money can be used.
2. In creating new jobs, be sure that if you hire additional personnel to work with students to improve student achievement, that in the hiring process the person understands and it is in their contract that this is for a 2 year period only.

District/Campus Plans:

Be sure to include the recovery/stimulus activities in your district/campus plans and in the resource column of the plan indicate that the fund source for the activity is Title Stimulus Funds.

Public Reporting:

The district is required to conduct a public report as to how the district/campus plans to spend the recovery/stimulus funds. Also, consider putting something on your website concerning the stimulus funds and how they will be utilized in your district and on the campuses. First report should be given before the application is due (projected due date is May 15, 2009)

Fiscal Issues:

1. **Supplement not supplant rules** –cannot be waived except in instances where funding has dried up and the district can document that there are no additional funds to support that position. The district then may pay for allowable costs that were previously paid for by state or local funds.
2. **Maintenance of Effort (MOE)**----this has not been completely determined but it does look like MOE will have to be maintained. Information will be coming out later.
3. All issues relating to fiscal on Title I, A recovery/stimulus funds must follow all guidelines as regular Title I, A funding. (FAR guidelines for Title I, A; OMB Circular A-87; Program Guidelines for Title I, A)

Program Waivers:

Program waivers may be available. However the following instances cannot be waived:

Unallowable Waivers

Under the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999 (P. L. 106-25), the following statutory or regulatory requirements **may not be waived**:

- maintenance of effort;
- comparability of services;
- equitable participation of students and professional staff in private schools;
- parental participation and involvement;
- distribution of funds to States or to local educational agencies;
- applicable civil rights requirements;
- serving eligible school attendance areas in rank order under section 1113(a)(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;
- selection of a school attendance area or school under subsections (a) and (b) of section 1113 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, except that a State

educational agency may grant a waiver to allow a school attendance area or school to participate in activities under Part A of Title I of such Act if the percentage of children from low-income families in the school attendance area of such school or who attend such school is not less than 10 percentage points below the lowest percentage of such children for any school attendance area or school of the local education agency that meets the requirements of such subsections (a) and (b);

- use of Federal funds to supplement, not supplant, non-Federal funds; and
- unless the underlying purposes of the statutory requirements of the program for which a waiver is granted continue to be met to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

Program Compliance:

1. This program will have compliance monitoring to be determined by guidelines from USDE and TEA.
2. There may also be quarterly reporting of program implementation as requested by USDE. This has not fully been determined.

Important Websites for Information:

USDE Website:

Power point on the American Recovery Act and Title I, A Guidance Document

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html>

Title I, A Facts:

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/title-i.html>

TEA Website:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=3873>

ESC Contacts for Title I, A and Title I, D Subpart 2 funds:

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