

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the impact for Norwalk

Based on a Presentation by
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Overview

- The U. S. Government will invest over \$100B in education spending over the next two years.
- Four principles guide the distribution of funds:
 1. Education funds will be delivered to states as early as the end of March 2009, and states must spend the funds quickly to save and create jobs*.
 2. States need to make assurances that they will emphasize innovation and reform to improve student achievement outcomes and close the achievement gap.
 3. Recovery funds will need to be tracked and reported separately from regular annual Consolidated Grant Application and IDEA funds, to ensure transparency.
 4. Funds must be invested in sustainable initiatives, those that will extend beyond the grant period.

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Confusion*

Since the principal source of the funds is Title I and IDEA and these programs require that a District may not supplant existing programs, it is difficult to understand how these funds will be able to save existing jobs in jeopardy because of funding limitations in the operating budget.

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ARRA Goals and Assurances

In order to apply for ARRA funds, the Governor must provide USDE with written assurances that CT has addressed and will continue to improve upon:

ARRA Goals

1. Academic Standards and Assessments of Student Learning and Achievement
2. Equitable Distribution of Quality Teachers
3. Data Systems to Track Student Performance
4. School Improvement Initiatives for Schools and Districts in Need of Improvement

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Sources of ARRA Funds for 2009 - 2011

Three primary sources of ARRA funds are available to states:

Source CT's Award

- Stabilization Block Grants \$542 million
- Entitlement Grants \$243 million
- Competitive Grants TBD*
 - Incentive Grants
 - Innovation Grants

*Distributed at discretion of Secretary of Education

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Basic Stabilization Funds

Process for Receiving Funds from the Federal Govt.

- Governors must submit an application to USDE, making assurances that the state is directing its resources toward of ARRA goals.
- Fund use assigned exclusively to Governors.
- Stabilization funds must be used to restore support for K-12 and postsecondary education.
- The State must ensure transparency in the use of the funds, have a plan for monitoring how funds are expended.
- The State must evaluate the effectiveness of their use and report to the USDE on a quarterly basis.

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Basic Stabilization Funds

CT's Strategy for Distributing Funds to School Districts

- Governor Rell's budget assigns all Stabilization Funds to K-12 education over two years.
- Stabilization Funds directed into Education Cost Sharing (ECS) line item, to allow for flat funding for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011.
- ECS allocations must be reserved exclusively for education and may not be used for municipal expenditures.
- ECS allocations are aimed at minimizing the loss of teachers, administrators and other public school employees.

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Unfortunately, the stabilization money has no implications for us since the city has already budgeted 2009/2010 ECS funds at 2008/2009 levels.

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Entitlement Grants to Districts

(Twenty Seven Month Totals)

<u>Source</u>	<u>CT's Award</u>
• Title I A (Part 1 & 2): (Education of the Disadvantaged)	\$70.8 million
• Title I A (Part 3): (School Improvement)	\$24.7 million
• Title II D (50%): (Technology Education)	\$4.7 million
• IDEA B: (611: Children with Disabilities)	\$132.9 million
• IDEA B: (619:Preschool)	\$5.1 million
• McKinney-Vento: (Homeless Children)	\$0.2 million

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What It Means for Us...

- We will receive both the ARRA Entitlement and Standard Entitlement for Title I and IDEA
- Speed vs. Smart – urgency to get the application in but the need to be strategic and thoughtful about the use of the money
- Maintenance of Effort, Supplement vs. Supplant
- State Guidance and Processing Time in applying
- Selecting a Proper Strategy for Fund Use:
 - Based on templates, SDE Recommendations and
the State's Decision-Making Rubric

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Norwalk's Preliminary Allocation of Additional Title I Funds

\$1,215,661

Within the guidelines, we will approach the use of these funds from a systemic perspective in order to effect the greatest impact for all.

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Title I, Part A Education of Disadvantaged

Purpose and Use of Funds

- Improve academic achievement and close the achievement gap
 - Recommended four priority categories:
 - ✓ Expanded learning time
 - ✓ Professional development/technical assistance
 - ✓ Increased capacity
 - ✓ Direct services to students, parents, and families

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Title I, Part A

Process

- Eligibility based on federal poverty data
- ARRA Funds must be budgeted and tracked separately
- LEAs required to report on use of funds
- Normal statutory and regulatory requirements apply
- Waivers for set asides agreements may be granted
- Title I supplement, not supplant, requirements apply

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Title I, Part A

Timeline

- Single streamlined application – April
- Title I ARRA awards – rolling award process
- 50% of Title I ARRA funds in spring, 50% in the fall (No additional application by districts)
- Regular Title I funds available in July

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**Norwalk's Preliminary Allocation of
Additional IDEA Part B Funds**

\$2,220,977

**Norwalk's Preliminary Allocation of
Additional IDEA Preschool Funds**

\$103,788

**Within the guidelines, we will approach
the use of these funds from a systemic
perspective in order to effect the
greatest impact for all.**

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**IDEA Part B
Ages 3-21 (611) and Preschool (619)**

Purpose and Use of Funds

- Support the excess cost of providing special education & related services to students with disabilities
- CEIS-coordinated early intervening services -15% to enable staff to deliver academic and behavioral interventions for non-disabled students who need these additional supports to succeed in general education
- Early Childhood programs and activities
- Recommended four priority categories:
 - ✓ Expanded learning time
 - ✓ Professional development/technical assistance
 - ✓ Increased capacity
 - ✓ Direct services to students and parents

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IDEA Part B

Process

- Distribution of funds based on same calculation as standard IDEA allocation
- ARRA funds budgeted and tracked separately
- LEAs required to report on use of funds
- Normal statutory and regulatory requirements apply
- IDEA supplement, not supplant, requirements apply

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IDEA, Part B

Timeline

- Single streamlined application-available March (one application combined with standard application with separate ARRA budget and narrative)
- 50% of ARRA-IDEA funds in spring, application due April 15
- 50% ARRA-IDEA funds in the fall, revision due Sept. 18
- Regular IDEA funds available in July, application due May 15

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Separate Tracking of ARRA Title I and IDEA Funds Will Require:

- Detailed plans describing how districts will use obligated and unobligated funds.
- States and LEAs to produce quarterly financial and program outcome reports.
- States and LEAs to identify the number of jobs that have been newly created or retained because of the funds.
- Subcontracts and sub-grantees to comply with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act.

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How We Will Prepare?

- Meeting with administrators held on March 25 to provide overview of funding and ask principals to solicit teacher input.
- Review current district priorities based on District Improvement Plans and School Growth Plans.
- Use administrator/teacher team to plan for innovative and creative uses of new monies based on needs and recognition that these monies are a one time opportunity with no funding available after July 1, 2011. Parental involvement will also be solicited.
- Identify initiatives to build district and school capacity in meeting state and federal education goals through the additional grant funding.
- Establish partnerships with other districts, RESCs, and private sector organizations to develop plans for applying for Innovation Grant funds.

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Important Takeaways

- ARRA potential to stabilize local education operations did not help us
- ARRA is designed to move the educational initiative forward
- Significant infusion of funding through Title I and IDEA
- Not as much flexibility as we would like
- We have to plan carefully on how to use the money
- These funds offer the potential to create new learning opportunities, and serve neediest students, close achievement gaps, add needed programs
- Spending plans must be specific; federal officials will be auditing use of funds,
- State Education Department has listed several options for use of funds that are consistent with federal and state priorities: Extended Learning Time, Professional Development/Technical Assistance, Capacity Development and Direct Services to Students, parents and families

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This is a one time significant opportunity where we must be thoughtful about how to use these funds wisely!

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