



Federal ARRA Funds (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act)

Summary of Key Elements
Durham Public Schools

as of October 2009

ARRA - Primary Purpose



- **Save Jobs.**
 - To provide an immediate influx of funding to states and school districts to save as many jobs as possible due to faltering economy.
- **Prevent drastic cuts to public services.**
 - Public schools funding was being cut at both the state and local government levels due to declining revenues.
- **Ensure Basic Services are maintained.**



Total Budget Impact FY 09-10

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| State Budget Reduction | (\$17.8 million) |
| Local Budget Reduction | (\$ 5.6 million) |
| Other Local Revenues | (\$ 4.3 million) |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Loss of Revenues | (\$27.7 million) |
| Federal Stabilization | \$ 8.0 million |
| ARRA Grant Funds | \$15.2 million |
| <i>Less ARRA funds for FY 2010-11</i> | <i>(\$ 5.8 million)</i> |
| <hr/> | |
| FUNDING LOSS FY 2009-10 | (\$10.3 million) |



Due to DPS's significant revenue loss the majority of our ARRA funds are being used to maintain our basic services where allowed.

DPS Federal ARRA Funds used to retain 259 teachers (JOBS)



ARRA funds being used for Teaching Positions

- Title I - ARRA = 48 Elementary Academic Coach Teachers
- Title VI-B (EC)-ARRA = 40 EC Support positions (literacy and facilitators)
- Stabilization = 171 teachers (Secondary Academic Coach Teachers and classroom teachers to replace state cuts)

Objectives beyond Jobs & Basic Services



If funding is available after Basic Services and Jobs are maintained then the Department of Ed outlined these as objectives for the targeted grant funding:

- Making progress toward rigorous college & career-ready standard, incl. ESL and EC.
- Establishing Pre-K to College thru career data systems.
- Improvement of teacher EFFECTIVENESS and equitable distribution of teachers esp. in at-risk schools.
- Providing intensive support and interventions for lowest performing schools.

RULES and more RULES



- All current regulations related to federal grants will apply to all targeted funding grants (Title I, IDEA, CTE, etc.)
- Supplanting requirement remains.
- Maintenance of Effort and Comparability remains.
- Time and Effort (OMB A-133, Edgar, etc all remain as main governance over the grants.)
- All set-asides apply to additional funds.



WARNING: Funding Cliff

- **Funds are ONE-TIME** - this warning is repeated throughout federal guidance.
- Should be invested in ways that do not result in unsustainable continuing commitments after the funding expires.
 - Note: salaries constitute commitment that may not be sustainable absent of the funds.
- The funding ends September 2011.
- Not meant to increase EC-IEP services since they can't be maintained after the funding ends. IDEA emphasis appears to be on staff development and linking data.

Transparency and Accountability



- Information must be available to public.
- Detailed reporting requirements that will include detailed listing of projects, activities, sub grants (vendors) involved, and outcomes/results because of funding.
- Major emphasis on being able to see the sch-schl comparative data as it relates to schools at-risk, staffing, etc.
- Reporting of Jobs retained or created is key.
- Higher level of accountability on uses of the extra funding and linking the funds to performance results.



Schools At Risk

- Emphasis on looking at lowest performing schools and being able to show resources, programs, staffing details, that are being used to turn-around these schools.
- Anticipated that detailed guidance will require intensive reporting on required measures and results that have to be met and penalties if not achieved. *(these are still being worked out)*
- School-by-school comparability reports will be required for the State to send with their federal reports.



Teachers

- Emphasis is on EFFECTIVENESS not “highly qualified” .
- Anticipated reporting that shows equitable distribution of effective teachers (yrs exp, degree levels, student results, etc.) esp. in how they compare in low-performing schools vs. others.
 - May require more district level intervention in staffing decisions at schools that are low-performing.



BEFORE we can spend

- Plans need approved by DPI – note: DPI cannot really tell us how to use the new funding but can continue to tell us how to use the recurring funding.
 - Updated school improvement plans that include the ARRA funds must be completed. *(currently underway at our schools due the end of October)*
- Need to make sure that we use coding and rules as directed by NCDPI so that quarterly federal reports can be submitted.
- Ensure there is a justification for each expenditure and proof as to how it meets the federal guidance related to the ARRA funds.

How is DPS using our ARRA grant funds?

ARRA -Title I \$6.9 million



- Primary objective was to retain 44 teacher level positions as Academic Coaches thru June 2011. This will require \$5.8 million (\$2.9 annually).
- The remainder of the funds must be used for mandated set-asides in Title I schools for parental involvement (1%) and staff development (5%) and total \$420,000.
 - *Plans currently being developed for each school.*
 - *These plans are meant to be for 2 years and for the funds to last thru September 2011.*
- Indirect costs are to be applied and will use \$389,000 of the funding.
- Any remaining funds (about \$350,000) are being used to support the overall LEA Improvement plan and the Academic Coach model. *Plans are still being development for this portion of the funding.*

ARRA -School Improvement \$TBD



- We anticipate some additional Title I ARRA directed funding related to specific schools designated in need of improvement. This designation is based on the state formulas, student achievement, Federal "AYP" designation and not determined by DPS.
- We currently have not been provided with any estimated funding at this time for this specific area of funding.
- Once we receive the funding plans would be developed by each individual school and submitted to DPI for approval.

ARRA -IDEA-Title VI-B \$7.5 million



- \$5.4 million (\$2.7 annually) is being used to retain staff for special education. There are at minimum 40 certified staff being paid from this grant in the areas of literacy support and facilitator roles.
- \$1.4 million is being used to bring our classrooms up-to-date with needed supplies, technology, software licenses, manipulative materials, etc.
- \$700K is currently being held in reserve for the 2nd year of the funding to address additional classroom needs at that time as we evaluate our Special Education program and the needs of the students and staff.
 - We are looking at staff development needs, upgrading our data collection and compliance processes, and other research based reforms that will move our program forward and for which 1-time funding can assist.

ARRA - IDEA Preschool \$296K



- Overall the funds will be used to ensure we have sufficient staff for our existing program. With our moving our service delivery model we may need additional teacher assistants and teachers as we move through the year.
- The remainder of the funds will be used to cover materials, supplies, transportation costs, etc. due to the state budget reductions to More @ Four resources, etc.
- We are experiencing a transition in the director of this program and after they begin and review the program a more fully developed plan for these funds will be forthcoming.

ARRA-Ed Technology \$171K



- Due to the drastic cuts to state technology funds these ARRA funds are being used to maintain programs already planned or in place.
 - \$45K for staff development workshops related to our educational technology tools.
 - \$40K for Atomic Learning software (staff development software for employees) and \$25K for online reference and encyclopedia software for teachers and students.
 - \$61K for hardware/software for students to conduct research to assist with STEM subjects (science, technology, math and engineering).



ARRA-Homeless \$36K

- These funds are being used to contract with the Center for Child and Family Health (CCFH) in Durham to provide staff development activities throughout the district in FY 2009-10 for staff, homeless shelter staff, and parents to assist in meeting the unique needs of our homeless students.

Child Nutrition ARRA -\$82K



- Child Nutrition received a competitive ARRA grant - awarded in June 2008 which was specifically for equipment.
- Thanks to the ARRA funds we now have new **Heating Cabinets** at Lowes Grove, new **Ovens** at Chewning and Lowes Grove, and new **Hot Food Tables (serving stations)** at Eastway, Burton, EK Powe, and Fayetteville Street.
- Final installation of the equipment should be completed by the end of October.

ARRA-Stabilization \$8 million



- These funds are actually just for FY 2009-10 and are meant to offset a direct state budget reduction.
- These funds flow to the State and then are distributed by the Governor through the budget process.
- We are using 100% of these funds to retain staff for the schools. We are offsetting positions (primarily teachers) that would have to be paid from local funds due to the state budget cuts.

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Final Cautions

- **This is all 1-Time funding.**
 - We need to plan for the loss of the funding and those jobs in particular.
- The reporting requirements are extensive so we will need to prove the value of each purchase or job and how that has impacted the district and met the key federal objectives.
- Funds have all the same compliance requirements as the normal federal grants so there are many strings attached.

Where to find ARRA information



Key Website (Federal):

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

Key Website (State):

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/resources/arra/>

Any Questions?