

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Frequently Asked Title I Questions

Q: What is the purpose of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)?

A: 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.

Q: When can my district expect to receive funds from the Title I Part A stimulus funds?

A: We are anticipating that the Title I stimulus funds will become available to the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction on March 26, 2009.

The department is hoping to release Title I stimulus allocations for eligible districts by mid April 2009. The North Dakota legislature will need to provide spending authority for these additional stimulus funds in HB 1013, which is the Department of Public Instruction's funding bill. This bill is typically one of the last bills approved, at the end of April.

Q: How does our district apply for the Title I stimulus funds?

A: The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction is working on a separate electronic application very similar to the existing consolidated application that districts will use to apply for the Title I stimulus funds.

The department is tentatively setting May 1, 2009, as the date that the electronic application for the Title I stimulus funds will be available to school personnel.

Q: When does the Title I stimulus money need to be spent by?

A: Title I Part A funds will be treated as though they are FY 2009 funds. An LEA must obligate at least 85% by September 30, 2010. Any remaining FY 2009 Title I Part A funds will be issued as carryover funds. Title I stimulus funds will be available for obligation until September 30, 2011.

An LEA may apply for a waiver of the 15 % carryover limitation under the regular Title I rules. Additionally, U.S. Department of Education's guidance says that a

state may apply to the education secretary for permission to grant its LEAs a waiver of the carryover limitation no more than once every three years.

Q: How will Title I Part A stimulus funds be allocated?

A: The Title I Part A funds will be distributed through the Targeted and Education Finance Incentive Grants. In North Dakota, all of the districts who received a Title I grant for 2008-2009 received funding under the Targeted and Education Finance Incentive Grants.

Q: Is our state one of the 14 states that distributes Title I funds through an alternative formula?

A: Yes. Our state distributes Title I funds using a specific formula consisting of free and reduced lunch, census poor count, and foster child count.

Q: Do all districts qualify for Title I Part A stimulus funds?

A: No. A list of districts that are eligible for Title I funding for the 2009-2010 school year can be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/legislative/stimulus/eligible.pdf.

Q: Are the supplement/supplant guidelines waived for the Title I stimulus funds?

A: The additional Title I stimulus funds will follow the normal supplanting rules. Title I statute provides the U.S. Department of Education no authority to waive the supplement, not supplant provision.

Q: Are private schools entitled to a share of Title I stimulus funds?

A: Yes, private schools are entitled to a share of the Title I stimulus funds.

Q: How can the Title I stimulus funds be used?

A: Districts can use this money for an allowable use under Title I law. Districts must keep in mind that this is a one-time only funding opportunity. A handout outlining recommended ways to use the additional Title I stimulus funds can be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/legislative/stimulus/additional_funds.pdf.

Q: Must districts that are required to target follow the ranking, serving and eligibility requirements to distribute Title I stimulus?

A: Yes, the same targeting regulations apply for the Title I stimulus funds.

Q: Can Title I stimulus funds be used for RTI programs?

A: Yes. RTI is allowed under Title I. However, actual day-to-day implementation of RTI will still be subject to normal supplement, not supplant requirements if supported by Title I funds. Districts are encouraged to use the funds for teacher professional development relating to RTI.

Q: What regulations apply to the Title I stimulus funds?

A: These additional Title I funds will follow the same rules and regulations as the regular Title I funds. Targeted assistance schools must follow the Title I targeted assistance regulations and school-wide programs must follow the school-wide regulations.

Q: What are the reporting requirements for the Title I stimulus funds?

A: LEAs will need to complete periodic reports on the spending of their Title I stimulus funds. At this time, we are unsure when the first report will need to be completed.

Districts need to keep in mind that how these funds are spent must be transparent to the public. The state and every district must report on their websites explicitly how these funds are being utilized.

Q: What should district leaders be doing right now, before funds are distributed?

A: Districts should begin to plan and brainstorm ways to spend the Title I stimulus funds so that when the application becomes available, they are ready to compete and submit it expeditiously.

Q: Where can I access information regarding the Title I stimulus funds?

A: Information is available on the USDE website at www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html.

Recovery.gov – A dedicated website to share information on the Stimulus Funding at www.recovery.gov.

As we share and disseminate information, material will be available on the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/Legislative/index.shtm.