

Name of Grant Program: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Saving and Creating Jobs and Reforming Education (ARRA) - IDEA	Fund Code: 760
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------

ARRA Purpose: The overall purposes of the ARRA federal grant programs are to fund activities that will advance ARRA's short-term economic goals by investing quickly to save and create jobs and to fund activities that support ARRA's long-term economic goals by: investing wisely; funding activities designed to strengthen education; drive reforms; and improve results for students.

ARRA-IDEA Purpose: Activities funded through the ARRA–IDEA grant must be designed to help ensure that students with disabilities have access to a free and appropriate education (FAPE) to meet each student's unique needs and to prepare each student for further education, employment, and independent living.

Priority - Investment

Educator Quality and Effectiveness

Activities funded under this priority will be designed to make improvements in educator effectiveness and in the equitable distribution of qualified teachers, para-educators, administrators, and other personnel working with students with disabilities and their families. Districts should consider uses of funds under this priority that create lasting results without creating unsustainable recurring costs.

Key long-term goals under this priority include:

1. Increased number of fully licensed special educators;
2. Increased number of highly qualified special educators;
3. Increased numbers of special educators working in high need schools and districts;
4. Develop and expand partnerships with institutions of higher education and/or other organizations to design and implement licensure and/or other preparation programs for special educators;
5. Increased retention rates of special educators who remain in the field; and
6. Improved capacity of general educators working with students with disabilities.

REQUIRED PROGRAM INFORMATION - NARRATIVE COMPONENT

For each initiative proposed, answer all of the following questions.

- 1. Activity Description:** (Project Plan / Evaluation Mechanisms)
 - a. Identify and describe the proposed activity.
 - b. Identify the specific gaps or weaknesses that will be addressed through this activity.
 - c. Outline the steps for implementation, including a proposed timeline.
 - d. Describe how the district will:
 - i. assess the implementation and impact of the activity; and
 - ii. periodically use this information to guide decisions regarding this activity.
- 2. Integration/Alignment:** (Alignment with District Strategic Plan / Leveraging District and Regional Resources)
 - a. Describe how the proposed activity is aligned with existing activities and improvement strategies within the district (e.g., the district strategic plan).
 - b. Describe how the district plans to coordinate the funds for this activity with other ARRA or regular entitlement funds or through regional/collaborative approaches to service delivery.
- 3. Lasting Benefits:** (Building New Capacity / Sustainability and Benefits Beyond the Grant Period)
 - a. Describe the anticipated long-term benefits that will result from the proposed activity. Provide information on how the activity will:
 - i. improve results for students with disabilities;
 - ii. increase teacher competencies; and/or
 - iii. result in systems change beyond the grant period.
 - b. Describe how the activity, or its benefits, will be sustained beyond the grant period.