

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
Supporting Schools, Districts, and Students

Activities funded under this priority will be used to strengthen existing systems and to drive reforms that result in improved programs and results for students with disabilities and their families. All reform initiatives should be considered as a component of a standards-based reform strategy. 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 numbers of schools and districts that have demonstrated substantial gains in achievement for students with disabilities;
2. Increased number of schools and districts that have demonstrated substantial gains in closing the achievement gap between general and special education students;
3. Develop and expand the capacity of schools and districts to serve students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment;
4. Improved district ability to maintain fully compliant special education programs;
5. Increased family involvement in their child's education and in the life of the school; and
6. Increased partnerships with other districts to provide services to 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.