

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
College and Career Readiness

Activities funded under this priority will be used to increase the capacity of schools and districts to prepare greater numbers of students with disabilities for work and college success. In order for students with disabilities to achieve positive post school outcomes, schools need to help students and their families engage in meaningful transition planning activities and to prepare students for successful employment, education, and community membership. 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 capacity of schools and districts to effectively coordinate family, school, and community resources to help students with disabilities meet transition goals;
2. Improved opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in meaningful career guidance and exploration activities;
3. Develop regional partnerships with agencies, institutions of higher education, and local employers to provide meaningful transition related experiences for students with disabilities;
4. Implement with fidelity the state and federal transition related laws and regulations; and
5. Increased number of students with disabilities who are college- and career-ready upon graduation.

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.