

Education Inside the Beltway
For the
Colorado Association of School Boards
Keynote Presentation

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National School Boards Association
February 18, 2010



Discussion Agenda

- **The Larger Context**
- **The Stimulus Program (ARRA)**
 - **Race to the Top**
- **The Jobs Bills**
- **FY 2011 Funding**
- **ESEA Reauthorization**
- **Discussion**

The Larger Context

- Political: 2010 Congressional election
- Educational: Greater expectations for higher academic performance
- Economic: Falling state and local revenues plus rising national debt

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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Economic Stimulus Program)

Three main support streams:

1. State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF)
2. Grant programs
3. Tax credits in lieu of interest on qualifying bonds

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State Fiscal Stabilization Fund

Totaling \$53.6 Billion

Governor's Portion: \$48.3 Billion (formula funding)

- \$39.5 billion (or 81.8%) formula funding for pre-k/ k-12/Higher ed
- \$8.8 billion (or 18.2%) for government functions including education

U.S. ED Secretary's Portion: \$5 Billion (competitive grants)

- \$4.35 billion to states: Competitive Race to the Top grants
- \$650 million to local level: Competitive grants to school districts and non-profits to be models for what works to close achievement gap

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Colorado ARRA Allocations

(Source: U.S. Department of Education)

- \$760 million SFSF (\$622 m for education, \$138 m for other Gov't services including education and school modernization)
- \$111 million Title I-A
- \$149 million IDEA, Part B
- \$ 60 – 175 million RTTT (range)

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ARRA: School Bond Programs

- **Qualified School Construction Bonds:** \$22 billion for 2009 and 2010
- **Qualified Zone Academy Bonds:** \$2.8 billion for 2009 and 2010

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SFSF: State Applications

Must include assurances for:

- Making progress toward rigorous college- and career-ready standards and high-quality assessments, including ELL & SWD; and
- Increasing teacher effectiveness and addressing inequities in the distribution of highly qualified teachers;
- Establishing pre-K-through-college and career data systems to track progress and foster continuous improvement (consistent with COMPETES Act); and
- Supporting targeted, intensive support and effective interventions to turn around schools identified for corrective action and restructuring.

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ARRA: Secretary's Discretionary programs

- Race to the Top: \$4.35 billion in competitive grants for 4 assurances
- School Improvement Grants: \$3.5 billion to turn around low-performing schools
- Investing in Innovation: \$650 million competitive grants to LEAs & nonprofit
- Improved assessments: \$350 million competitive grants

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Race to the Top: General Program Concepts

- Competitive grant program for states - \$4.35 billion
- Four reform principles
 - Internationally benchmarked standards/
Assessments for college/career success
 - Effective teachers/principals: equitable distribution
 - Longitudinal data systems: grade to grade
 - Turning around low performing schools

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General Program Concepts (continued)

■ Eligibility Requirements

- Compliance with State Fiscal Stabilization Fund

- No state legal, statutory, or regulatory barriers to link student performance to teacher and principal evaluations. *Note: This requirement does not apply to local collective bargaining agreements.*

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Grants Awarded Based on Competitive Points

	Points
□ State reform agenda/success factors.....	125
□ Standards/assessments.....	70
□ Data systems.....	47
□ Great teachers/leaders.....	138
□ Turning around low achieving schools.....	50
□ General	55
□ Emphasizing STEM.....	15
□ Total.....	500

Note: STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

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Select Application Requirements and Deadlines

- State Application Deadlines:
 - January 19, 2010 (Awards Spring 2010)
 - June 1, 2010 (Awards by September 30, 2010)
- Four years to spend the funds
- A rejected January application may be modified and resubmitted in June

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Race to the Top Local Points of Interest

Participating LEAs

- At least one half of state's RTTT funds go to "participating" districts
- Participating districts must sign MOU agreeing to all or substantially all of state plan

Involved LEAs

- Discretionary state grants
- Implement a portion of state plan

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School Interventions

- Basically means make a new school using one of four models
- Applies to Title I schools that are among lowest achieving 5% in state that are in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring (or lowest 5 schools) or that have a high school grad rate under 60%
- Same as above for non Title I secondary schools

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Participating Districts Questions to Ask

- Do we know the details of the state plan?
- Will implementation cost local money?
- Will we be able to sustain the program when the funds run out?
- What elements of our MOU will the teacher union not support?

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Participating Districts

Questions to Ask (con't)

- If our district has low performing schools which RTTT options can we do?
- Will the state redo areas of state plan to address local problems if it is a round 2 applicant?
- Will the state allow us to withdraw?

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Select Point Preferences

Charter Schools

- Not a requirement but award of 30-40 points for states with no cap or a cap of at least 10% total schools in state and 11-29 points for states with 5-10%
- Points awarded for independent innovative schools (e.g. attributes of site based management)

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Select Point Preferences (continued)

Common Standards and Assessments

- Not a requirement but award of 15-20 points for joining a consortium with a majority of states ; 0-14 points for having half of the states or fewer.
- States must show commitment/progress (phase 1) or actual adoption (phase 2) by August 2, 2010
- Developing/implementing common, high-quality assessments (10 points)

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Latest Developments

January 19, 2010 Announcement

- President includes \$1.35 billion in FY2011 budget to extend RTTT
- Opens competition to school districts
- District selection and eligibility criteria to be determined , ED outreach to local leaders, community coming months
- District funding timeline Oct to Dec 2010 if funded by Congress

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The Jobs Bills

- House bill: \$23 billion for Education Jobs Fund
 - Passed December 2009
 - \$23 billion available as an extension of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund through September 30, 2010
- Senate amendment to House bill:
 - Both Qualified School Construction Bonds and Qualified Zone Academy Bonds would be eligible to be treated similar to Build America Bonds, which means that the federal government would pay a credit equal to either 45% or 65% of the interest paid by the issuer.
 - The teacher tax deduction for out-of-pocket classroom expenses is extended through the end of 2010

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Funding: FY 2011 Budget Proposal

- ESEA programs: \$4 billion increase proposed (total: \$28 billion for ESEA programs – 6.2% increase)
 - \$1 billion contingent on ESEA reauthorization
 - Remaining increases primarily for competitive programs
- \$1.35 billion – To continue Race to the Top (including direct funding to school districts)
- \$500 million to continue the Investing in Innovation (i3) Program
- \$1.65 billion – For administration priorities such as teacher and leader effectiveness, charter schools, comprehensive schools and expanded learning opportunities.

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FY 2011 Budget Proposal

- Title I flat funded at FY 2010 level (\$14.5 billion) and renamed the *College & Career Ready Students* program

- Special education state grants increased slightly (+2.2%)
 - Preschool & infants/toddlers grant programs flat funded

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NSBA Position on FY 2011 Funding

- NSBA urges **increased funding for Title I grants & special education (IDEA)**. Advancing student achievement and school performance through these programs will remain a top priority for school districts after the funding allocations from the economic stimulus are utilized.
- **Protecting Investments in Title I and IDEA** will help our school districts avert any funding cliffs in FY 2011 and future years
- **Increases should not be at the expense** of other effective programs.

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ESEA: Why Major Change is Needed

NCLB -Flawed in major ways- Examples:

- The method it uses to assess school performance
- How it uses assessment results to determine success and failure
- The action to be taken when a school or school district is viewed as failing
- The focus on punishment not incentives
- Failure to recognize the services needs/learning goals of the whole child

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The Administration and ESEA

Standards/Accountability

- Standards and assessments: more rigor needed (nat'l / common standards?)
- Multiple assessments (portfolios?)
- Replace AYP with high school graduation rate at college/career readiness levels
- Tie accountability to growth
- Graduation rates must rise
- Graduation benchmarks: college / workplace readiness and internationally competitive
- Differentiated consequences / incentives

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The Administration and ESEA (continued)

Strategies/Programs

- An infra-structure tied to the four ARRA assurances
- Focus on closing the achievement gap/turn-around schools
- Assigning effective teachers to lower achieving schools
- Tie teacher evaluation to student performance
- Pay for performance
- Pre-school
- Charter schools/alternative governance
- Encourage excellence through competitive grants

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Outlook for Reauthorization

- Earliest Action 2010
- Need to make the school district case to your Representatives/Senators
- We not only need change but change that works
- Work with your state and national associations for effective legislation

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Issues For Breakout Session

- More detail on Race to the Top
- Common Core Standards
- More on the President's budget
- School Nutrition Act
- E-Rate

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NSBA Resources



NSBA Advocacy website:
www.nsba.org/advocacy

NSBA Economic Stimulus Resource Center:
www.nsba.org/economicstimulus

Center for Public Education website:
www.centerforpubliceducation.org

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