

# **An Overview of Federal Stimulus Funding for Education in Pennsylvania**

*presented to*

**The Pennsylvania Stimulus Oversight Commission**

*April 2009*

*Diane Castelbuono*

*Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education*

*Pennsylvania Department of Education*

## Questions to Address Today

- I. What are the various stimulus funding streams for education?
- II. What is the timeline to apply for, receive and expend education stimulus funding?
- III. How will the Pennsylvania Department of Education ensure that schools invest stimulus funds wisely and in ways that have the most impact on student achievement?
- IV. How does the Pennsylvania Department of Education plan to:
  - Review and track how stimulus funds are being used?
  - Measure and track progress towards outcomes?

**Context:**  
The stimulus funding for education is not just about saving jobs.

## Historic, One-time Investment

Over \$100 billion  
national investment in education

*\$2.6 billion for Pennsylvania*

Historic opportunity to **improve** education

*In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity -- it is a pre-requisite.*

*The countries that out-teach us today will out-compete us tomorrow.*

**President Barack Obama**  
**February 2009**

## The Long-Term View: Lifting American Education to a New Level

It's not just about jobs –

- Effective teachers in all of our schools
- Using data to determine what does and doesn't work in the classroom
- Demanding rigorous standards to prepare students for college and career
- Transforming our lowest performing schools

## Section I:

# What are the various stimulus funding streams for education?

## Majority of Education Stimulus Funding Flows Directly to Schools

Funding stream	Total Allocation	Amt Distributed Directly to Schools
State Fiscal Stabilization (SFSF)	\$1.558 Billion	\$1.558 Billion
Education for the Disadvantaged (Title I)	\$398.7 Million	\$398.2 Million
Special Education (IDEA)	\$427.1 Million	\$424.1 Million
Educational Technology (Title II-D)	\$25.3 Million	\$24.0 Million
Homeless Students	\$1.9 Million	\$1.9 Million
Title I School Improvement	\$121 Million	\$114 Million

**99.5%** of Federal Education Stimulus Funding is allocated **directly to schools**

## Section II:

What is the timeline to apply for, receive and spend education stimulus funding?

## Recovery Funds Start Flowing to Pennsylvania as early as April

### Spring 2009

67% of SFSF  
50% Title I, Part A  
50% IDEA  
100% Homeless

### Summer/Fall 2009

33% of SFSF  
50% Title I, Part A  
50% IDEA  
  
100% Ed Technology  
100% School Improvement

## Timeline for Funds to Flow to School Districts

	<b>All federal funds must be expended by. . .</b>	<b>Plan is to allocate funds to LEAs for use beginning. . .</b>
State Fiscal Stabilization Funds distributed through Basic Education Funding Formula	Until Sept 30, 2011	July 1, 2009: \$418M July 1, 2010: \$737M
Excess State Fiscal Stabilization Funds distributed through direct grants to LEAs	Until Sept 30, 2011	July 1, 2009
Title I and IDEA Stimulus	Until Sept 30, 2011	July 1, 2009
Educational Technology	Until Sept 30, 2011	tbd
Homeless Support	Until Sept 30, 2011	July 1, 2009
Title I School Improvement	Until Sept 30, 2011	tbd

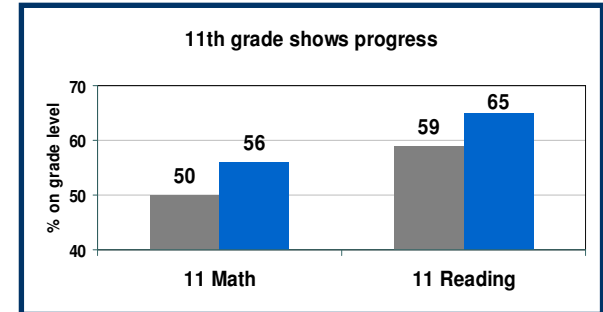
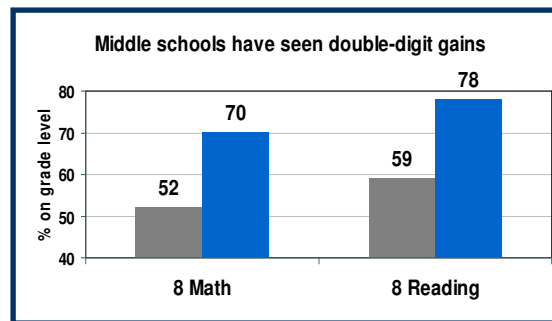
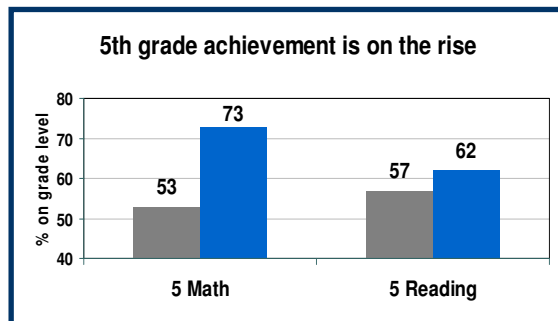
## Section III:

How will we ensure that schools invest stimulus funds wisely and in ways that have the most impact on student achievement?

## The Challenge of Six Separate Funding Streams

- Regulated by three different statutes (thousands of pages)
- Driven by six different purposes
- Using multiple formulae and allocation methods
- Permitting different but sometimes overlapping allowable activities

## Common Goal: Increased Student Achievement all grades, all subjects, all demographics

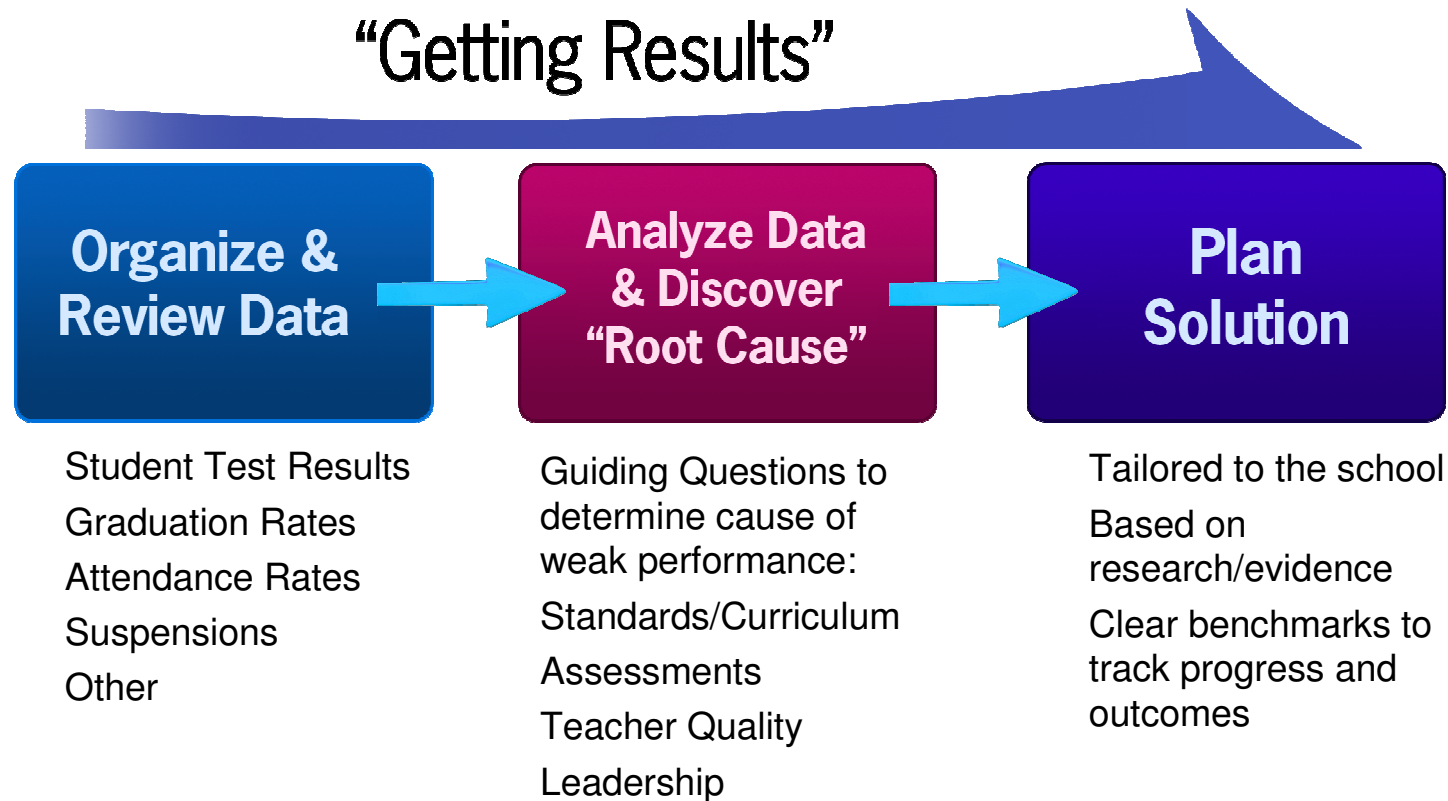


**Pennsylvania's progress is a result of hard work by educators using new resources provided by the state.**

**Since 2002, Pennsylvania has invested an additional \$2.7 billion in PreK-12 education,** targeting these resources to the school districts with the greatest need and the programs that are proven to work in boosting student achievement.

## Improving schools starts with a plan, not with a budget.

### “Getting Results”



## Braided Funding Sources to Build The Solution

Is it an allowable expenditure?

Will the funding be available when the expense is incurred?

Is the investment consistent with the expected duration of the funding stream (short-term versus long-term)?

## An Example of Braided Funding

Science scores at XYZ Middle School are abysmal. Root causes:

- lackluster curriculum
- current teachers not trained in the physical sciences
- out-of-date science lab.

### **Short-term funding needs**

Curriculum development: [Title I stimulus](#)

Upgrade science lab: [State Fiscal Stabilization funds](#)

### **Long-term/on-going funding needs**

Hire teacher certified in physical sciences: [Basic Education funding](#)

## Section IV:

How will we review and track how stimulus funds are being used?

How will we measure and track progress towards outcomes?

## Reporting and Accountability

The Recovery Act calls for an unprecedented level of transparency and reporting:

“In exchange for [the] unprecedented funding boost [of federal stimulus money], we are asking you to collect, publish, analyze, and act on some basic information about how our schools educate our children, evaluate our teachers, and measure our success – information that will reveal both strengths and underlying challenges.”

USDE Secretary Arne Duncan, April 1, 2009 letter to Governors

## Reporting: Detailed, Transparent, Well-Publicized

Reporting to reference the four assurances LEAs committed to in their consolidated applications:

- 1) increase teacher effectiveness and address inequities in the distribution of highly qualified teachers;
- 2) use Pennsylvania's PK-college and career data system to foster continuous improvement;
- 3) make progress towards rigorous college and career standards and high quality assessments; and
- 4) provide targeted, intensive support and interventions to turn around low achieving schools

Further reporting details from USDE = tbd

## PA's Strategy for Collection and Review of Education Stimulus Data

- Step 1: Leverage existing school improvement planning by LEAs
- Step 2: After PDE approves plan, LEA submits *detailed pre-expenditure plan* for review and approval.

## Detailed Pre-Expenditure Plans

- Web-based
- Disaggregated by funding streams
- Include cost estimates, potential vendors, staffing implications, and impact targets
- Historical comparison over several years to track cost increases
- Expenses disaggregated at district, school and, eventually, classroom levels
- Data “rolls-up” into state reporting system

## Detailed Pre-Expenditure Plans

- Allows opportunity for technical assistance and guidance by PDE on specific expenditures
- Post expenditure review in targeted districts
- Quarterly annual reports published on department's Recovery Act website
- Ability to merge and cross-tabulate with PA's nationally-recognized Student Information Management System

## Challenges We Face

- Short timeframe in which to plan
- Different funding flows at different times
- Allowable costs vary among funding streams
- Funding is disbursed before all the reporting requirements are finalized
- Short-term funding, long-term needs
- Greater transparency than ever before

## More Information . . .

- Pennsylvania Recovery website:  
[www.recovery.pa.gov](http://www.recovery.pa.gov)
- PDE Recovery website:  
[www.pde.state.pa.us/stimulus](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/stimulus)
- Contact PDE
  - By email: [Ra-stimulus-pde@state.pa.us](mailto:Ra-stimulus-pde@state.pa.us)
  - By phone: (717) 214-5972