

July 27, 2010

Dear District Administrator:

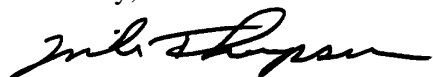
The unprecedented increase in federal funding for education under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has resulted in enhanced opportunities for our students to reach the achievement goals for which we strive. It has also generated much interest on the part of the Congress and to the public on how well districts are making use of this one time resource.

One measure of the need for this funding is the rate at which districts are spending their ARRA allocations in Title I, IDEA, and Title II, Part D. Each quarter, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) publicly reports the percent of ARRA funds spent. Your next report of ARRA expenditures to DPI will be due on September 23, 2010 and our goal is to report at least 70% of all of your ARRA funds expended. In order to do so, I am requesting that all districts promptly submit ARRA claims, especially those in Title I and IDEA. Recent communication from the U.S. Department of Education has strongly encouraged school districts to obligate ARRA funds first before regular allocations. In order to do so in the current reporting quarter, you may need to revise your original ARRA and regular allocation budgets. Department staff will work with you to make these adjustments if necessary.

It is important that districts aggressively allocate, spend, and claim these funds expeditiously in the upcoming months. We must avoid the possibility of having to return any funds when resources for public education are so badly needed. I know all of our districts have carefully and thoughtfully developed plans to make the most of ARRA funding and to allocate funds in ways that avoid the eventual funding cliff. Thus, please make every effort to obligate and claim the maximum amount that you can for the current reporting period.

Thank you for the diligence you have shown in the management of this remarkable resource. If you have questions or concerns about the status of claims and expenditures of ARRA funds in your district, feel free to contact your program area consultant. To find your Title I consultant, see: <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/titleone/asp/t1consultants.aspx>. For Title II, Part D, contact Amy French at 608-261-6327 or amy.french@dpi.wi.gov. For IDEA, contact the Special Education Team at 608-267-9164 or dpisped@dpi.wi.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Thompson, PhD
Deputy State Superintendent

MT/mjp

c: CESA Administrators