

## **THE STIMULUS PACKAGE: WHAT'S IN IT FOR EDUCATION REFORM**

### **FUNDING FOR EDUCATION IN THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009**

Rebecca R. Skinner, David P. Smole, Ann Lordeman, and Wayne C. Riddle, Congressional Research Service, February 2009

This is one of the best summaries we have found of the Act. Because it is authored by CRS, we also assume it is one of the most accurate.

### **LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF EDUCATION ARNE DUNCAN TO THE GOVERNORS**

Arne Duncan, April 1, 2009

This letter focuses only on the \$48.6 billion portion of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund intended to help states balance their budgets. Even though it does not address issues related to the Secretary's discretionary State Incentive Grants, we believe its provisos will offer guidance in the distribution of those funds too. This is because the proposed metrics related to the four assurances it discusses—on (a) teacher effectiveness and qualifications, (b) high standards and rigorous assessments, (c) support, interventions and achievement in schools that need it most, and (d) better information for educators and the public—must also be addressed in state applications for the incentive funds. The Innovation Fund has a slightly different, but related, set of usage criteria.

### **THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Center on Education Policy, March 2009

This little summary of the entire education portion of ARRA is written in clear English and is totally accessible to those of us who may not be legislative experts.

### **ARRA FUNDING CHART**

American Federation of Teachers, March 2009

This basic outline of all funding provisions also provides a very helpful list of deadlines and pending actions.

### **FIRST EDUCATION STIMULUS FLOWS TO THE STATES**

Stephen Sawchuk and Erik W. Robelen, *Education Week*, April 8, 2009

This is *Ed Week's* take on the Secretary's letter to governors, along with reactions from other stakeholders. The story reports that Duncan warned states against playing "shell games" with the stimulus money or they might risk access to the "Race to the Top" Incentives Grant money.

### **RACE TO THE TOP: EDUCATING OUR WAY TO A BETTER ECONOMY**

Arne Duncan, *The Oregon Daily Emerald*, March 30, 2009

Secretary Duncan makes clear that the new funds are for reform as well as economic recovery, including improved standards and assessments, better data collection, recruitment and retention of a high quality teaching force, and turning around low-performing schools.

**SCHOOLS' MONEY IS FALLING OFF THE TRUCK**

Maria Glod and Michael Birnbaum, *Washington Post*, April 13, 2009

More details are offered here on how states are juggling their funds to take advantage of the education monies for other purposes. It too points out how the Secretary intends to use the State Incentives grant money to leverage a halt to such practices.

**WHAT MATTERS MOST: A REAL OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR SCHOOLS**

Randi Weingarten, *New York Times* ad, March 9, 2009

In reflecting on President Obama's education reform agenda, Randi Weingarten notes that "the debate over education policy often ends up in a vacuum, producing a series of fads whose proponents rarely take into account how the latest fad will indeed work on the ground, or how it fits into the larger and more complex puzzle of school improvement." Continued teacher input is vital if we want the new investments in education to have the intended results.