



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Peter McWalters
Commissioner

To: RIDE & Superintendents
From: Commissioner Peter McWalters
Date: February 27, 2009
Re: American Reinvestment and Recovery Act

As you may know, yesterday I attended a meeting at the White House at which Education Secretary Arne Duncan briefed the chief state school officers about the “American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.” Secretary Duncan told us that four principles will guide the U.S. Department of Education as it allocates the federal funds that this act provides:

- Deliver Funds Quickly
- Save and Create Jobs
- Ensure Transparency and Accountability
- Advance Reforms

Many in attendance at the meeting raised questions about the “maintenance of effort” and “supplement, not supplant” provisions of the act. Secretary Duncan said that next week we will receive initial guidance regarding the allocation and expenditure of the federal funds.

In April, the Education Department will post tables with details regarding state allocations.

Our own preliminary and unofficial estimates of what Rhode Island will receive in additional education funding through FY 09 and FY 10 (combined) are:

Title I Part A	\$36.9 million
ESEA School Improvement Grants	\$10.9 million
IDEA Part B	\$43.2 million
Education Technology (Title II-D)	\$3.2 million
State Fiscal Stabilization Funds	\$165.3 million

This afternoon, I attended a news conference at which Governor Carcieri, joined by General Assembly leaders, officially certified that Rhode Island will request and use funds to support activities that will create jobs and economic development. The Governor said that he will work with the members of the General Assembly, the Congressional delegation, and the cities and towns in the allocation of these federal funds.

I will continue to keep you informed over the next few weeks as we learn more about the provisions of this act and how we can best use these resources to support and improve public education in Rhode Island.

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