

MEMORANDUM SRS-511

To: School Board Members

FROM: Office of the Superintendent

DATE: August 26th, 2009

SUBJECT: IDEA Part B and Section 619 Preschool Disabled Fund (ARRA)

The IDEA Part B and Section 619 Preschool Disabled funds under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) require that the district sign and submit assurances stating that all legal requirements are met in accordance with state and federal laws, regulations, and rules. These assurances apply to program activities and expenditures of funds. Funding will not be released to the district until the assurances are signed and submitted to the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to sign & approve the IDEA Part B and Section 619 Preschool Disabled fund under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act as presented.

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

Assurances
IDEA Part B and Section 619 Preschool Disabled
under the
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Assurances form a binding agreement between the local district, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, and the U.S. Department of Education that assures all legal requirements are met in accordance with state and federal laws, regulations, and rules. These assurances apply to program activities and expenditures of funds. Compliance to general and specific program assurances is the legal responsibility of the local district under the authorization of the local board of education and the direction of the superintendent.

In applying for and accepting funding under the following components of ARRA, the district assures that it will comply with the principles of ARRA, will meet all applicable program laws and regulations, and will meet all accounting, reporting and monitoring requirements of the state and federal governments. This will include information on the number of jobs saved or created and on economic development that was achieved by the use of ARRA funds.

For All ARRA Funds

The district assures that it will follow these guiding principles of ARRA:

- Spend funds quickly to save and create jobs;
- Improve student achievement through school improvement and reform;
- Ensure transparency and accountability and report publicly on the use of the funds;
- Invest one-time ARRA funds thoughtfully to minimize the “funding cliff” by investing in ways that do not result in unsustainable continuing commitments after the funding expires.

The district will assist the state in advancing education reform in the following areas:

- Making progress toward rigorous college-ready and career-ready standards and high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable for all students, including English language learners and students with disabilities.
- Establishing pre-K to college and career data systems that track progress and foster continuous improvement.
- Making improvements in teacher effectiveness and in the equitable distribution of qualified teachers for all students, particularly students who are most in need.
- Providing intensive support and effective interventions for the lowest-performing schools.

The district acknowledges that the funding is a one-time addition and that the Alaska State Legislature makes no representation that it will replace the federal stimulus money

when it expires, in accordance with the Alaska State Legislature's stated intent in accepting the stimulus funds.

The district, if applicable to its use of stimulus funds, will strive to hire Alaska workers and use Alaska contractors and vendors and minimize the use of out-of-state consultants, in accordance with the Alaska State Legislature's intent in accepting the stimulus funds.

The district will focus on short-term investment with long-term gains for student and teacher performance and pay particular attention to the U.S. Department of Education's guidance that the funds should be invested in ways that do not result in unsustainable continuing commitments after the funding expires, in accordance with the Alaska State Legislature's stated intent in accepting the stimulus funds.

For IDEA Part B and Section 619 Preschool Disabled

The district assures that it:

- will submit to the state a budget and budget narrative for each of Phase One and Phase Two allocations;
- will attach to these assurances a copy of district school board meeting minutes showing approval of the district's application for these funds.

SOURCES: The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, the U.S. Department of Education document Guidance on IDEA ARRA funds dated April 2009, and Alaska House Bill 199.

By my signature below, I agree, upon the approval of the project application by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, to accept and perform the requirements as contained in the assurances above.

Name of School District

Signature of Superintendent

Date

Printed Name of Superintendent

Signature of District School Board President

Date

Printed Name of District School Board President

Mail the original signed document to:
Alaska Department of Education & Early Development
Attn: Art Arnold
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