

EED Fact Sheet
IDEA Part B Funds and Section 619 Preschool Disabled
under the
American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

1. Districts must be prepared to account for their IDEA Part B ARRA funds separately from their regular IDEA funds. The U.S. Department of Education has assigned a new CFDA number to the IDEA Part B ARRA funds in order to facilitate separate accounting. Recipients will need to maintain accurate documentation of all ARRA expenditures to ensure that the data reported is accurate, complete, and reliable. States will monitor districts to help ensure data quality and the proper expenditure of ARRA funds.
2. ARRA requires that detailed information on the uses of funds be available publicly on www.recovery.gov. The state-level and district-level information will be posted on www.eed.state.ak.us, as well.
3. If a district fails to comply with requirements governing the use of IDEA Part B funds, the U.S. Department of Education may take one or more enforcement actions, including withholding or suspending, in whole or in part, IDEA Part B funds or recovering misspent funds following an audit.
4. Districts must obligate all IDEA Part B ARRA funds by September 30, 2011. An explanatory chart indicating when an obligation occurs for various types of activities is provided in the federal Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) at 34 CFR Section 76.707.
5. All provisions of EDGAR, IDEA and the General Education Provisions Act apply to the use of IDEA Part B ARRA funds. Districts may choose to use up to 15 percent of the total of their regular and ARRA IDEA Part B and Preschool funds to implement coordinated early intervening services.
6. IDEA funds, including IDEA Part B ARRA funds, may be used for the purchase of equipment or the construction or alteration of facilities with the prior approval of the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development and the U.S. Department of Education. Districts would have to comply with various federal requirements, including those for construction materials and wages.
7. Under certain circumstances, districts may use the flexible authority under IDEA section 613(a)(2)(C) to reduce their local, or state and local, expenditures for special education and related services. The freed up money must be spent on activities authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965. See Sections D-6 through D-12 in the federal guidance on IDEA Part B ARRA linked on this web site, including the April 13 modification to the guidance.

8. For Phase One of the IDEA Part B ARRA funding, EED will provide districts with a notice of intent to award letter and an ARRA assurances form by May 22, 2009. Districts must submit a budget based on the amount noted in the notice of intent to award. Districts must submit a budget narrative.
9. For Phase Two of the IDEA Part B ARRA funding, EED will provide districts with a notice of intent to award letter and an ARRA assurances form after October 1, 2009. For each phase, districts must submit a budget based on the amount noted in the notice of intent to award and a budget narrative.
10. Districts are responsible for being familiar with the guiding principles, assurances and acceptable uses contained in ARRA (see guidance documents linked on this site) and the EED assurance document. The latter must be signed by the district superintendent and school board president. Districts also must submit copies of school board meeting minutes reflecting the local board's approval of its district's application for each ARRA program it is applying for.