

# The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

## Transparency and Accountability

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# Main Guidelines

## Stimulus Fund Guidelines

- Spend quickly to save and create jobs
- Improve student achievement through school improvement and reform
- Ensure transparency, reporting and accountability
- Invest funds thoughtfully to minimize the “funding cliff”



# Accountability

## Will be Held Accountable

- Must retain accurate, complete and reliable documentation of expenditures
- Funds will have planning and reporting requirements
  - More guidance on data collection and reporting is needed
  - The Department of Education Office of Inspector General will monitor use of funds
  - States will post data to recovery sites
  - Report quarterly on Recovery.gov
  - Whistleblower- report misuse and fraud

# Accountability

## Unprecedented Accountability

- All states are required to track each grant separately
  - Separate accounting to ensure better tracking
  - Accurate reporting
  - Ensure data quality
- Each grant award will be assigned a unique identifier which will identify the recipient and the grant program
  - IDEA
  - IDEA Part B
  - Title I
  - State Stabilization funds

# Transparency

## Reporting to the State and Federal Government

- Quarterly reports must be submitted by DOE on the 10<sup>th</sup> day after the end of each quarter
- Reports must contain:
  - Project title
  - Point of contact information
  - Amount of dollars spent
  - Estimated number of jobs created
- Districts will likely have to report to the state much earlier
- First state reports will be due in early July
- Reporting template still in development with Department of Education

# Failure to Comply

## You Could be Punished

- If a state fails to comply with transparency and accountability guidelines:
  - Funds could be withheld
  - Funds could be suspended
  - Conduct an audit to recover misspent funds
- Inspector General has a hotline created to take reports of waste
  - 1-800-MIS-USED or [oig.hotline@ed.gov](mailto:oig.hotline@ed.gov)
- More guidance is coming from the Department of Education
  - How to avoid misuse, waste and abuse of funds

# What We're Hearing

- State Perspective
- School District Perspective

# State Perspective

## What We're Hearing from States

- States already have strong reporting mechanisms in place
  - Auditing and distribution methods in place
- Funds will be used to create more robust reporting systems
  - Tracking progress of projects, funds and goals
- Familiarity as a result of using existing grant programs
  - Large injection of funds through existing programs

# Local Perspective

## The Local Perspective

- Await guidance on how and what to report to states
- Seeking more information on grants
- Want to ensure the best use of funds to:
  - Ensure that the funds make it to the classroom
  - Maximize the amount of funds their districts receive
  - Ensure the teachers jobs are saved and gains in student achievement are accomplished

# At the End of the Day

## This is About the Students

- Create or save the jobs of educators
- Improve student achievement
- Improve professional development and training
- Create 21<sup>st</sup>-century learning environments
- Support struggling schools
- Establish data collection systems

**All of this can only be achieved with  
transparency and accountability**