

Summary of Stimulus Package for Education

Because the new administration wanted to get funds distributed widely and quickly, an already-established channel was sought. So, the first infusion of money is passing through the **IDEA and Title I lines**. There are rules prescribed for how money in those channels can be spent. For example, 1% is designated for parent involvement and 10% for Professional Development opportunities. Districts or states may be able to apply for waivers to spend the money differently. 50% of that first infusion came to KDE on April 1 but the guidelines were not in place for distributing it to the districts. The other 50% will come to KDE in July or August.

Two words of caution about this money: it is not intended for construction and it is not advisable to spend it on personnel since this is a one-time payment.

Finally, there will be stringent recording and reporting required for this money.

But that is not all the money. There is also the **State Fiscal Stabilization Fund**, 81.8% of that will go to education and 18.2% will go for government services. This money is under the control of the governor's office and will be distributed to the states based on application by the states. Education groups can meet with the governor or education secretary to weigh in on what that application should include.

A third part of the stimulus package is the **Impact Aid Money** which would be available to districts to compensate for property taxes that are not collected on federal housing projects or federal land reserves within their districts.

Finally, there will be lots of **competitive grants** available. The guidelines will be published in the fall. A few examples are a teacher quality enhancement fund, Race to the Top, and Invest in What Works. How well the IDEA and Title I funds are stewarded and the transparency with which they are handled will affect eligibility for the competitive grants.

Key Idea: Since a great deal of money is going to be available through various channels, it is important for schools and districts to look at themselves now and start with what kids need, and only after doing that, look at the various parts of the stimulus package to find the means.