Waukegan Public Schools : Title One ARRA Funds

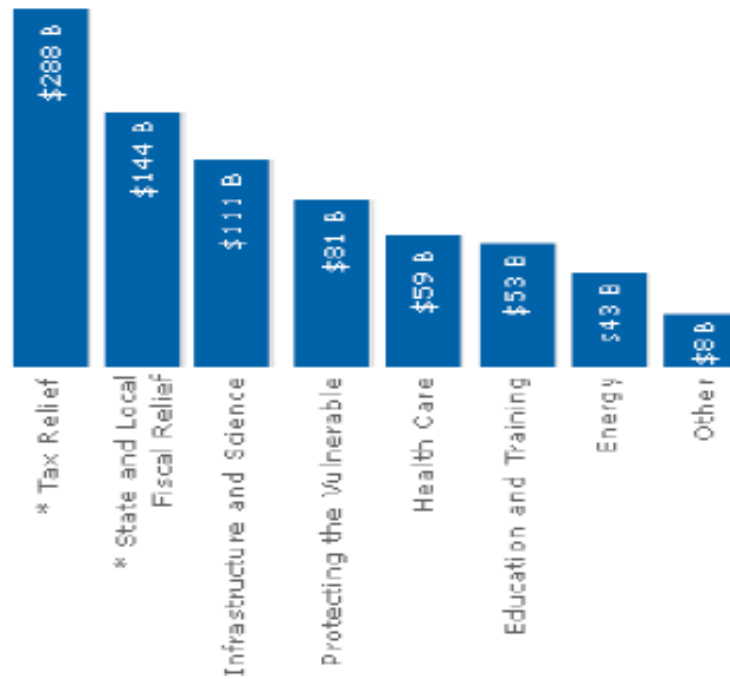Information Presentation by:

Judith M. Green

July 23, 2009

ARRA Information being updated regularly- but still not complete

- District 60 attended an information meeting the end of March, at that time guidance form the federal government had not been released.
- District 60 had a phone conference in May with U.S. Department of Education to get guidance
- Illinois State Board of Education presented information early June regarding guidance in planning for ARRA Title One and projected allocations- were made available through a webinar presentation and web site.
- June 18 a second webinar presentation given, but main focus was on the regular Title One/ NCLB Consolidated Grant application and how this would be tied to the ARRA application process. The NCLB application to become available in two weeks, the Title One ARRA will be made available some time after the regular Title One application is completed-the two application will be related. Attended second on July 6, 2009.
- New Federal Guidance expected to be released by the U.S. Department of Education related to ARRA set aside regulations and waivers
- Our greatest issue in planning in not knowing what other state and local funds will be cut from our operating budgets for next year- this news coming too late to make program adjustments before our staff went home for the summer.

ARRA Intent as stated in ISBE informational presentation

Historic, one-time investment to stimulate economy & improve education

Category	Amount
* Tax Relief	$288 B
* State and Local Fiscal Relief	$144 B
Infrastructure and Science	$111 B
Protecting the Vulnerable	$81 B
Health Care	$59 B
Education and Training	$53 B
Energy	$43 B
Other	$8 B

ISBE and Federal Initial Guidance

- ARRA Guiding Principles

    - 1. Spend funds quickly to save and create jobs
    - 2. Ensure transparency, reporting & accountability
    - 3. Invest one-time ARRA funds thoughtfully to minimize the funding cliff

- 4. Advance effective education reforms

ARRA and Education Guidelines

- Four Education Reform Areas

  – 1. Increase teacher effectiveness and address inequities in the distribution of Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT)

  – 2. Establish and use pre-K-16 data systems to track progress and foster continuous improvement

  – 3. Make progress toward rigorous standards and high-quality assessments

  – 4. Support targeted, intensive support and effective interventions to turn around schools identified for corrective action and restructuring

Questions we must consider

- Use of Funds - LEA questions to consider:
- **The answer to these 5 questions should be YES when considering how to best spend *ARRA* funds:**

  - Will the proposed use of funds drive improved results for students?
  - Will the proposed use of funds increase educators' long-term capacity to improve results for students?
  - Will the proposed use of funds advance state, district, or school improvement plans and the reform goals encompassed in *ARRA*?
  - Will the proposed use of funds avoid recurring costs that states, school systems, and schools are unprepared to assume when this funding ends?

- Will the proposed use of funds include approaches to measure and track implementation and results and create feedback loops to modify or discontinue strategies based on evidence?

Title One ARRA particular focus

- Allowable Costs – Supplement vs. Supplant
- 1. Is the activity allowable? Review statute, guidance, cost principles
- 2. Does it violate non-supplanting provisions?
  - Review three scenarios where supplanting is presumed, see *Revised Non-Regulatory Guidance Title I Fiscal Issues*, Feb. 2008 (http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/fiscalguid.pdf).
    - When federal funds are used to provide services that the SEA/LEA is required to make available under other federal, state or local laws;
    - When federal funds are used to provide services that the LEA/SEA provided with State or local funds in the prior year; or
    - When federal funds are used to provide the same services to Title I participating students that are being received by nonparticipating students.

- 3. Is there documentation to rebut the presumption of supplanting?

Accountability and Reporting

- ARRA Reporting Requirements

  - activity paid for with ARRA funds must be tracked separately with its own budget code. *Any*
  - States and LEAs to produce quarterly financial and program outcome reports.
  - Detailed information describing how districts will use obligated and unobligated funds.
  - Emphasis on clean, reliable data that will be used for decision making.

- Subcontracts and sub-grantees to comply with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act

Initial Guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Education

- We questioned if we could use ARRA funds for the high school, since they do not participate in the regular Title One program- the answer was **yes**.
    - The suggestion was made to consider a focus on Mathematics for our high school program, while we have seen improvement K-8 in mathematics on our state test, the high school has seen no improvement on our state test. We just received our 2009 Prairie State results and Math in the all category this year is 21.5% meeting. We were ate 29.3% meeting in 2008.
    - We met with the non- public high school and our high school staff to discuss this possible focus, both agreed it would be beneficial.
    - We must plan to infuse the program, so we discussed creating math labs at each campus and professional development that would strengthen overall instruction- something that could be sustained after funding is gone. Also key would be a parent component for parents to offer help with high school math help to better support student achievement efforts
    - While the middle school data looks like we have improvement, our data shows that the transition between grade 8and grade 9 are problematic in the area of mathematics, so we also would like to focus on a pre- algebra bridge program to better prepare students for the transition, something that we will need to sustain through the regular Title One program after the ARRA funds are gone.
    - While this was a preliminary idea – other needs were also considered, this was not a complete expenditure of the funds

Waukegan Title One ARRA proposal

- Proposed Budget for upcoming application
  - **Total WPS Title One ARRA $2,718,848**
    - Set Aside mandates
      - 20% SES tutoring : $543,769
      - 10% Professional Development: $271,885
      - 1% Parent Involvement: $27,189
      - non- public funds: $48,720
  - Sub total: $ 891,563
- Remaining funds to budget for ARRA program: $1,827,285

ARRA proposal continued

- Remaining funds$1,827,285
  - Math Summer Bridge program to provide pre-algebra to 8th graders moving into 9th grade but performing below grade level in math, algebra program for 9th graders moving to grade 10 performing below grade level- stipend pay for staff and instructional materials ($140,000)
  - High School Math support program during school year : 1 lab at each campus and mini lab at St. Martin with math online resource algebra focused. with one master teacher to work with math teachers at each campus ($300,000)
  - MS math support program during school year Tier 2 math program Pre-Algebra focus FY with 2.5 staff who will then move to Title One regular in 11($197,285)
  - Compass Learning Student resource support in reading and mathematics aligned to NWEA student data- generating individualized learning paths Annual cost will be absorbed into Title One regular in FY 11($200,000)
  - Managed Switches to provide secure access to student benchmark assessment NWEA Map and student data obtained once assessment completed-- at all K-12 school MDF's. Also Supports improved access to student information/ data system by all staff to improve data driven instruction decision making. ($450,000)
  - Student Information system software- ($150,000)
  - 15 EL mobile labs for improved access to NWEA MAP assessment tool (13 labs with ARRA and 2 budgeted in regular Title One) ($390,000)

Other considerations for initial plan

- To support a bridge program for the elementary schools to ease the loss of the LAL program formerly supported through the Reading improvement grant with a one year interventionist program to introduce a one on one intervention plan for students using a program such as Compass Learning which is aligned to the local assessment being used by our grade 3-10 students (NWEA MAP)
  - This program links the student's assessment results to a learning path to work on reading and mathematic skills identified as deficit for that student.
  - The program would provide pathways based on the program itself for primary grades in reading and math as indicated by the pre-assessment.
- The intervention will provide assistance the first year in teaching both the students how to access and use this tool and eventually transition with the classroom teacher on use of this tool , so classroom teachers can utilize the resource by the end of this year funded by ARRA. A much needed second mobile lab that will assist with the MAP assessment as well as access to the resource to help each child work on areas of deficit.
- Other Title One set asides also apply and must be funded in the Title One ARRA such as: non-public allocation of funds, parent involvement, professional development, SES tutoring and minimally we must communication that homeless and ELL students will have access to the programs being funded by ARRA funds.
- To use some of the funds to measure effectiveness of current intervention programs, as well as the new programs getting started by the ARRA funds- small portion, but important in our ability to report out out to stakeholders.

Planning Groups previously involved in initial planning

- Met with all our non-public participants
- Met with principals
- Met with Title One staff
- Met with cabinet leaders
- Have held 2 public meetings – in June and July

Additional Resources related to these ARRA funds can be found at

State
   http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/arra_webinar_050109.pdf

- http://www.isbe.net/arra/default.htm

- http://www.recovery.illinois.gov/

- http://www.isbe.net/arra/html/fed_arra.htm

Federal

- http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html#apps