ISBE’s American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

On April 1st, U.S. Secretary of Education Duncan released guidance pertaining to the State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF), Title I Grants and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant funds appropriated through the ARRA. While the SFSF, IDEA and Title I are the largest sources of funding Illinois will receive through ARRA, there are smaller grant opportunities like Title II-D Education Technology, National School Lunch Equipment Program and McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Grants. Initial information on some programs and additional guidance on other programs are expected from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) in the coming weeks and months. ISBE will post information on our ARRA website as it becomes available and encourages interested parties to also check ED’s website regularly at http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html. Below are some frequently asked questions (FAQ) on topics related to implementation of the ARRA. This is not a comprehensive list of issues and is not a replacement for the official guidance published by ED.

General Funding Questions:

1. How much will my district/school be getting from the stimulus?
   Preliminary FY10 and ARRA allocations for Title I and IDEA have been calculated for local education agencies (LEAs). You can access the ARRA IDEA calculations at the agency’s special education Funding and Disbursements web page under the Federal Special Education heading at http://www.isbe.net/funding/html/specialed.htm. ARRA Title I allocations can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/title_I_arra_prelim_fy10.pdf or you can review just the ARRA amounts at ISBE’s ARRA webpage at http://www.isbe.net/arra/arra_summary_allocations.pdf.

2. When will the money be available to LEAs?
   If a local education agency chooses to apply for a portion of the Title I and/or IDEA ARRA funds before the end of this fiscal year they can do so through a streamlined paper process. For more detail, see question 3, 17, and 25 below. If a district chooses not to apply for funds for FY09, the funds are not lost. All of the ARRA LEA allocation that will be provided by ISBE is available to districts – whether the application/project starts May 1st or within the 2010 fiscal year, however all ARRA funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2011.

   Please note that an LEA can not obligate funds prior to the project start date, and the project start date cannot begin before a substantially approvable application is received at ISBE. For example: a district cannot issue a purchase order prior to the submission of a substantially approvable application to ISBE. If items are ordered prior to application submission or while major application revisions are being made, those items cannot be paid for with these grant funds. See the ISBE Policy and Procedures manual from Funding and Disbursement Services Division for more information available at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbk.pdf.
Separate revenue codes will be used for accountability and transparency purposes for all ARRA funds that are distributed. The new ARRA revenue account numbers have been incorporated into Part 100 Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting and Auditing. Emergency amendments to Part 100 have been filed and were effective April 17, 2009.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARRA Program Name</th>
<th>Revenue Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>ARRA – General State Aid Stabilization Funds</td>
<td>4850</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARRA – Title I Part A Low Income</td>
<td>4851</td>
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<td>ARRA – Title I Part Neglected, Private</td>
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<td>ARRA – Title I Part A Delinquent, Private</td>
<td>4853</td>
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<td>ARRA – Title I School Improvement (Part A)</td>
<td>4854</td>
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<td>ARRA – Title I School Improvement (Part G)</td>
<td>4855</td>
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<td>ARRA – IDEA Part B Preschool</td>
<td>4856</td>
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<td>ARRA – IDEA Part B Flow Through</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARRA – Title II D Technology (Formula)</td>
<td>4860</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARRA – Title II D Technology (Competitive)</td>
<td>4861</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARRA – McKinney Vento Homeless Education</td>
<td>4862</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARRA – Child Nutrition Equipment Assistance</td>
<td>4863</td>
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A more complete list of other possible revenue account numbers can be found in a copy of the emergency rules located at:

Additional information on the timing for accessing funding under other programs (ED Tech, Homeless, School Improvement) will be forthcoming as additional information is reviewed from the U.S. Department of Education.

3. How will the money be distributed?
The ARRA funds for Illinois are from ED and will be distributed, through three primary streams, each with their own requirements.

1. About 1/3 of the funds received by Illinois will be distributed through the regular programs and funding streams with some modification to meet the goals of the act. This bucket of dollars is often referred to as ARRA “formula funds” and would include Title I and IDEA increases, along with funds provided under Title II-D Education Technology and the McKinney-Vento Homeless program. There are also some competitive funds that will be awarded under the Title II-D Technology through ED and National School Lunch Program Equipment fund through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

2. The remaining ARRA funds are allocated through the State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) section of the Act and are referred to as “stabilization funds.” These funds will help stabilize state budgets in order to minimize and avoid reductions in education. This funding will constitute the remaining General State Aid (GSA) payments in 2008-09 beginning with the second GSA payment in April and going
through the second GSA payment in June. The remainder of the stabilization funds will be paid out by ISBE as GSA in FY10.

3. Additional funds will be available to States and LEAs via competitive grants administered by ED and these competitive funds nationally are expected to become available this summer. (See also question 13 and 14 below.)

4. **Are there additional reporting requirements for those that take ARRA or stabilization funds?**
   Yes, for both States and LEAs. States must submit quarterly reports showing how they used the funds; how the funds were distributed; the number of jobs that were saved or created; the tax increases that were averted; the modernization, renovation or repair projects undertaken; and the state's progress in reducing inequities in the distribution of highly qualified teachers, in developing longitudinal data systems, and in improving assessments for students with disabilities and English-language learners. Additional reporting requirements may apply as more information is provided by ED or USDA.

   There will also be additional reporting requirements for local districts. We do not have specifics yet, but as soon as more guidance from ED or USDA is provided with regards to local reporting requirements it will be posted to the ISBE ARRA website at [http://www.isbe.net/arra/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/arra/default.htm) and disseminated through regular communications to the field. Meanwhile, ISBE encourages districts to carefully track all ARRA funds.

5. **How will the ARRA impact teachers salaries?**
   There is no explicit language in the legislation regarding salaries. However, the SFSF does provide an additional $200 million nationwide for the Teacher Incentive Fund administered by ED as part of the competitive grants. This pot of money will be used, as it was before, to fund pay-for-performance programs in school districts. Additional information on the Teacher Incentive Fund can be found at: [http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherincentive/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherincentive/index.html).

6. **What money is available for technology?**
   Part of the ARRA funds include $650 million for Title II-D, which is the EdTech program that helps LEAs to acquire technology equipment and train teachers on the uses of technology. All of this training and purchasing should be pursuant to a district’s technology integration plan. More information about these funds and when they will be available is anticipated soon. For more information, go to: [http://www.ed.gov/programs/edtech/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/edtech/index.html) or [http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/elearning/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/elearning/default.htm)

7. **Are there funds to support school modernization and construction in the ARRA?**
   There were no specific funds dedicated for new school construction in the final legislation. However, stabilization funds that are replacing General State Aid (GSA) payment may be used for the construction purposes since this is an authorized activity under the Impact Aid construction program in §8007 of the ESEA. This issue is addressed on pages 33-37 of the SFSF guidance document available at [http://www.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/guidance.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/guidance.pdf) (see also question 9 below)
An LEA may not use the stabilization funds for construction of (or modernization, renovation, or repair of) stadiums or other facilities primarily used for athletic contests or exhibitions or other events for which admission is charged to the general public, or stand alone facilities whose purpose is not the education of children, including central office administration or operations or logistical support facilities. If an LEA uses stabilization funds for construction, it must comply with specific requirements relating to the use of American iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in the project.

In addition, the ARRA increased funding for the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB) and provided for tax credits for Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB). QZABs are low-interest bonds that school districts may be able to use for renovation or construction projects. To be eligible for the bonds, the schools or programs must be located in an empowerment zone or an enterprise community; or have at least 35 percent of their students eligible for free or reduced-cost lunches under the National School Lunch Act. QZABs must be used for rehabilitating or repairing public school facilities, investing in new equipment and technology, developing challenging course materials or training teachers. QZABs cannot be used for new school construction, however. The QSCBs are a new category of tax credit bonds for the construction, rehabilitation, or repair of public school facilities or for the acquisition of land on which a public school facility will be constructed. The process and procedures for applying for such bonds are being developed and districts will be notified as necessary.

8. **What can the ARRA "school improvement" funds under Section 1003(g) be used for?**

The school improvement money is part of a program originally authorized under the No Child Left Behind Act that is meant to help states revamp struggling high-need schools. In distributing the funds, states give priority to districts that have the greatest need and a commitment to closing the achievement gap. ISBE granted funds for this program for the first time in 2008-09. More information on the requirements for School Improvement ARRA funds under §1003(g) will be forthcoming later in the year.

**ARRA State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF):**

9. **How will Illinois allocate SFSF to local districts?**

Illinois, in accordance with its application approved by ED, will be using all of the money in the SFSF for education, and, specifically, for the remaining General State Aid payments in FY09 and, for portions of GSA in FY10, in an effort to minimize the possible impact of the State's current fiscal deficit upon payments of GSA to Illinois school districts.

10. **What is the plan for two years out after the ARRA funds have been allocated?**

ARRA represents an historic infusion of funds that is expected to be temporary. To the maximum extent possible, ARRA funds should be invested in ways that do not result in unsustainable continuing commitments after the funding expires.
11. Will state aid payments derived from stimulus funds carry the federal pension/Teacher Retirement System (TRS) reporting requirements on GSA payments?
No. Per an April 9, 2009 email to all GSA recipients ISBE staff discussed the matter with TRS and, TRS has determined that because the SFSF will be appropriated by the General Assembly from the General Revenue Fund and distributed to TRS employers through State vouchers, TRS members paid with SFSF funds will be subject only to the regular TRS contribution rate and not the federal contribution rate. Please note, however, that in compliance with federal SFSF guidance, the SFSF will be treated as federal funds for ARRA reporting requirements, and other OMB circular requirements including threshold requirements for an OMB A-133 federal audit.

12. Where is the most recent information regarding SFSF located?
More detailed information is provided on the ISBE ARRA Website at http://www.isbe.net/arra/default.htm. This website will be updated as information becomes available. Also visit the U.S. Department of Education website at www.ed.gov

Competitive Grants:

Within the SFSF section of the ARRA, the U.S. Department of Education was appropriated $5 billion dollars to use for competitive grants. Those funds are split between the “innovation fund” and the “Race to the Top” incentive program.

13. What are the specifics on the innovation fund?
$650 million has been set aside from the SFSF to support a competitive grant from the U.S. Department of ED called the Innovation Fund. This grant is geared toward helping LEAs that have met certain benchmarks expand their work and serve as models for others. Benchmarks include closing achievement gaps, such as between students with and without disabilities; exceeding a state's Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives for two consecutive years for English Language Learners; and making significant progress on other fronts, such as graduation rates or teacher recruitment. LEAs can partner with nonprofit groups and must obtain matching funds from the private sector.

14. What are the specifics on the "Race to the Top" competitive funds?
The $4.35 billion national pot of money under the SFSF is what Secretary Duncan is calling his "race to the top" fund. States will compete for these funds. States must show progress in four areas: maintaining state funding for education at 2006 levels; achieving equity in teacher distribution; improving data collection and use; and improving standards and assessment. Those four areas, incidentally, are areas where governors must "assure" they'll make progress when they take their bigger piece of the state stabilization fund. Race to the Top grants will be awarded in two rounds — fall 2009 and spring 2010.
ARRA Title I, Part A Funds for Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged:

15. Why do some districts not get Title I, Part A ARRA funds?
   Only an LEA that is eligible to receive an allocation under the Targeted Grant and EFIG formulas in sections 1125 and 1125A of the ESEA is eligible to receive Title I, Part A ARRA funds. To be eligible, an LEA must have at least 10 students eligible and a low income count of at least 5 percent of the LEA’s school-aged population (i.e., children aged 5-17, inclusive) (See sections 1125(a)(1) and 1125A(c) of the ESEA and 34 C.F.R. § 200.71(c) and (d)).

16. Will the ARRA funds roll into the current NCLB grants or be a separate grant application?
   Districts will apply for ARRA funds through a separate grant application.

17. When can we anticipate accessing these funds? Will it be in time to impact the next fiscal budget (July 1, 2009)?
   LEAs may use ARRA Title I, Part A funds over three fiscal years as outlined below:
   - The LEA may choose to separately apply for a portion of their total ARRA Title I, Part A funds in FY2009 in addition to the regular Title I, Part A funds for FY2009 (school year 2008-2009). All FY2009 ARRA activities must be completed between May 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009 after the LEA has received approval from ISBE for the FY2009 ARRA Title I, Part A funds application. LEAs will submit a streamlined PAPER application to access funds for this two month period of time. The LEA may apply for another portion of their ARRA Title I, Part A funds in FY2010 and/or FY2011 through the electronic Grants Management System.
   - The LEA may choose not to apply for ARRA Title I, Part A funds in FY2009, and instead to separately apply for a portion or all of their total ARRA Title I, Part A funds in FY2010 in addition to the regular Title I, Part A funds available for FY2010 (school year 2009-10) through the electronic Grants Management System. All FY2010 activities must be completed between the project begin date (July 1, 2009 or date received at ISBE, whichever is later) and the project end date of June 30, 2010 or August 31, 2010.
   - The LEA may choose to apply for any remaining ARRA Title I, Part A funds in FY2011. If in FY2011 the LEA has chosen to carryover ARRA Title I, Part A funds up to a maximum of 15 percent of their total funds, these funds will be available for application and obligation until September 30, 2011. The remaining ARRA Title I, Part A funds are in addition to the regular Title I, Part A funds for FY2011 (school year 2010-2011). All FY2011 activities must be completed between the project begin date (July 1, 2010 or date received at ISBE, whichever is later) and the project end date of June 30, 2011 or August 31, 2011. Together, the FY2011 regular Title I, Part A funds and a maximum 15% of ARRA Title I, Part A funds will constitute the total FY2011 Title I, Part A funds.
18. Will carryover be allowed?
Yes, carryover is allowed for ARRA programs but certain restrictions on carryover amounts may apply for different programs. Furthermore, all ARRA Title I funds will be available until September 30, 2011. No carryover of these funds will be allowed after that date.

19. Will there be a limitation on the amount of carryover?
The same rules apply to ARRA Title I funds as to regular Title I funds – a minimum of 85% of the allocation must be spent or obligated within the current fiscal year and 15% or less can be carried over into next fiscal year. For example, if the LEA’s FY10 ARRA Title I, Part A allocation is $135,000 and the FY10 Title I Part A “regular” allocation is $146,000, the total LEA FY10 Title I, Part A allocation is $281,000. The LEA must expend or obligate at least $238,850 (85%) by September 30, 2010. The carryover unobligated amount, $42,150 (15%) or less, may be applied for in FY2011. Title I funds and ARRA Title I funds are subject to the carryover requirements regardless of when the funds are accessed.

20. Will the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) set aside any money for administration, infrastructure or statewide initiatives from the Title I ARRA allocation?
ISBE has no authority to reserve administrative funds from ARRA allocations at this time. The administrative funds ISBE may reserve come from the regular Title I allocation and that is capped at an amount less than 5% of our grant award. (Sec 1004 (b)) The additional ARRA funds do not increase the amount a State would otherwise be able to reserve for state administration or other state-level activities; however, a waiver may be available to assist states with the increase data and reporting requirements. ISBE is awaiting additional guidance from ED regarding waiver opportunities.

21. How can ARRA Title I funds be used?
ARRA Title I funds must be used in accordance with all components of Title I. The ARRA does not provide any flexibility in this regard.

22. Can ARRA Title I, Part A funds be used to support activities that were previously supported with non-Federal funds without violating the supplement, not supplant requirement?
Generally, an LEA may not use Title I, Part A funds for activities that it would have conducted in the absence of Title I, Part A funds. Several situations give rise to a presumption of supplanting (i.e., a presumption that the LEA would conduct the activity with non-Federal funds if it had no Title I, Part A funds available): (1) the activity is required by local, State, or other Federal law; (2) the LEA conducted the activity in the prior year with non-Federal funds; or (3) the LEA uses non-Federal funds to provide the same activity for non-Title I students or in non-Title I schools that it provides with Title I, Part A funds for Title I students in Title I schools.

The use of ARRA Title I, Part A funds for an activity that an LEA provided in the prior year with non-Federal funds generally gives rise to a presumption that the LEA would
have continued to use non-Federal funds to conduct the activity this year in the absence of ARRA Title I, Part A funds and, therefore, the use of Title I Part A funds for that activity would constitute supplanting. The LEA may overcome this presumption, however, under certain conditions. See the U.S. Department of Education’s ARRA Title I guidance for more information at http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/title-i.doc.

23. Will all current Title I, Part A requirements and set-asides (i.e., transportation, choice, SES services) be required for the stimulus funds or will they be treated separately?
Based on current information, we expect all existing Title I requirements will remain in effect for these stimulus funds. Waivers may be a possibility, based on guidance from the Department of Education.

ARRA IDEA, Part B Funds for Services to Children and Youths with Disabilities:

24. Will the ARRA funds roll into the current IDEA grants or be a separate grant application?
Cooperatives and districts will apply for ARRA funds through a separate grant application. Districts that are currently part of a special education cooperative must apply for ARRA IDEA funds through their respective cooperatives.

25. When can we anticipate accessing these funds? Will it be in time to impact the next fiscal budget (July 1, 2009)?
LEAs may use ARRA IDEA funds over three fiscal years as outlined below:

- The LEA may choose to separately apply for a portion of their total ARRA IDEA funds in FY2009 in addition to the regular IDEA funds for FY2009 (school year 2008-09). All FY2009 ARRA activities must be completed between May 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009 after the LEA has received approval from ISBE for the FY2009 ARRA IDEA funds application. LEAs will submit a streamlined PAPER application to access funds for this two month period of time. The LEA may apply for another portion of their ARRA IDEA funds in FY2010 and/or FY2011 through the electronic Grants Management System.

- The LEA may choose not to apply for ARRA IDEA funds in FY2009, and instead to separately apply for a portion or their entire total ARRA IDEA funds in FY2010 in addition to the regular IDEA funds available for FY2010 (school year 2009-10) through the electronic Grants Management System. All FY2010 activities must be completed between the project begin date (July 1, 2009 or date received at ISBE, whichever is later) and the project end date of June 30, 2010 or August 31, 2010. Together, these grant awards will constitute the total FY2010 IDEA funds. The LEA may apply for another portion of their ARRA IDEA funds in FY2011.

- The LEA may choose to apply for any remaining ARRA IDEA funds in FY2011. The remaining ARRA IDEA funds are in addition to the regular IDEA funds for FY2011 (school year 2010-2011). All FY2011 activities must be completed between the
26. **Will carryover be allowed?**
Yes, carryover is allowed for ARRA programs but certain restrictions on carryover amounts may apply for different programs. Furthermore, all ARRA IDEA funds will be available until September 30, 2011. No carryover of these funds will be allowed after that date.

27. **Will there be a limitation on the amount of carryover?**
There are no limitations on the amount that may be carried over as long as the funds are obligated prior to September 30, 2011.

28. **Will the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) set aside any money for administration, infrastructure or statewide initiatives?**
No. The additional ARRA IDEA funds do not increase the amount a State would otherwise be able to reserve for state administration or other state-level activities.

29. **How can ARRA IDEA funds be used?**
ARRA IDEA funds must be used in accordance with all components of IDEA. The ARRA does not provide any flexibility in this regard. Applicants should use the “IDEA Part B Grant Instruction and Program Information” booklet located on the ISBE’s website at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/idea_part-b.htm for additional guidance.

30. **Will the current regulations on supplanting and maintenance of effort be modified to permit districts utilizing the ARRA IDEA funds to maintain current staffing patterns?**
The applicability of maintenance of effort and supplement not supplant provisions to funding under ARRA is somewhat complex. The Recovery Act provides some flexibility and relief regarding maintenance of effort requirements but appears to provide no flexibility regarding most supplement-not-supplant provisions under current law.

Per section 613(a)(2)(C), in any fiscal year that an LEA’s IDEA allocation exceeds the amount the LEA received in the previous year, under certain circumstances, the LEA may reduce the level of state and local expenditures by up to 50% of the amount of the increase, as long as the LEA uses those freed-up local funds for activities that could be supported under the ESEA. If an LEA takes advantage of this provision, the required MOE for future years is reduced consistent with the reduction it took, unless the LEA increases the amount of its state and local expenditures on its own. The LEA must be determined to be in compliance with IDEA before such action can occur.

31. **Can any deal be made to send IDEA funding not to co-ops, but direct to districts to pay those co-ops?**
No. Per the answer in question #23, districts that are currently part of a special education cooperative must apply for ARRA IDEA funds through their respective cooperatives.
32. Can an LEA submit letter of intent now for spending next year?
Letters of intent were only needed if the district planned to apply for a portion of the stimulus funds before the end of this fiscal year. LEAs can elect to apply for stimulus funds in FY10 for Title I and IDEA through the electronic Grants Management System. Payments will be distributed in FY10 per the payment schedule submitted with the application. More information on the electronic FY10 applications will be forthcoming. See Question #2 above.

33. How do the maintenance of effort and supplement, not supplant, provision apply to ARRA IDEA and ARRA Title I funds?
Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requires grant recipients, such as LEAs, to maintain a certain level of state and local fiscal effort to be eligible for full participation in federal grant funding. The maintenance of effort requirements apply to all covered programs listed within NCLB and thus all ARRA funds are subject to MOE as well. Under IDEA, §613(a)(2)(A)(iii) (34 CFR §300.203(a) and (b)), an LEA must not use funds provided under Part B of the IDEA to reduce the level of expenditures for the education of children with disabilities made by the LEA from local, or state and local, funds below the level of those expenditures for the preceding fiscal year. However, a district may potentially reduce their level of local or state expenditures below the amount expended the previous year if the district can attribute the reduction to one of several situations outlined in 34 CFR §300.204 or if the district utilizes the flexibility within IDEA §613(a)(2)(C) (34 CFR §300.205). Please see the U.S. Department of Education’s IDEA, Part B and Title I, Part A guidance for more specifics regarding fiscal requirements of ARRA funds under these two programs.

34. Are there details on exceptions to normal Title I and IDEA restrictions?
In general, all programmatic and fiscal requirements of existing programs administered by Department of Education, such as IDEA and Title I, will apply to the corresponding additional funds provided under ARRA. This includes the types of allowable expenses as well as maintenance of effort and "supplement not supplant" requirements. In those instances where ARRA provides for an exception to or a waiver of the existing requirements, additional details will be provided as they become available. In addition, normal federal requirements governing the expenditure of grant funds, including OMB circulars A-87, A-102, and A-133, will apply to all ARRA grants.

35. Can we split allocation along multiple years, designating some funds for 2011 and beyond?
The ARRA requires that funds be spent expeditiously, but prudently. ED advises that LEAs should obligate the majority of ARRA formula funds during school years 2008-09 and 2009-10 and the remainder during school year 2010-11. The Title I carryover requirements do apply, unless a waiver is granted, and thus LEAs must obligate 85% of the districts Title I allocation by September, 2010. All ARRA formula funds must be obligated by September 30, 2011. (See IDEA and Title I sections above)
36. Can a district get funds in advance instead of on a reimbursement basis? 
LEAs already receive payments in advance for federal programs. For example, if a LEA requests a Title I payment in June, the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services will voucher that payment at the end of May or in the early portion of June so that the money is received in the month requested. LEAs should take care in scheduling federal payments in accordance with anticipated expenditures to minimize potential cash on hand which can incur an interest penalty.

37. Explain how the ARRA funds will affect categoricals versus General State Aid (GSA) payments. Will this allow the state to catch up on categorical payments?
As stated in the answer to question #9, ARRA funds will replace payments scheduled for GSA. Through this action it will improve the ability of the Comptroller to relieve some of the delays in general revenue payments including the mandated categoricals.

38. Will the state standards or the federal standards be in effect? Does the state utilize more stringent requirements than the federal requirement of 40% poverty?
ISBE uses the same requirements as required by ESEA in that schools must have at least 40 percent low income students in order to operate a schoolwide program. ISBE follows the applicable procedures outlined in 34 C.F.R. §§ 200.70 – 200.75 and § 200.100 when adjusting ED-determined LEA allocations. ED’s Guidance on State Educational Agency Procedures For Adjusting Basic, Concentration, Targeted, and Education Finance Incentive Grant Allocations Determined by the U.S. Department of Education provides more detail on how LEA allocations are determined and is available at:
http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/seaguidanceforadjustingallocations.doc

39. Where can we go for updated information?