

---

June 10, 2009

## ***CDE Recovery Act Alert #8***

---

Dwight D. Jones, Commissioner

**TO:** Special Education Directors  
Preschool Special Education Coordinators

**FROM:** Ed Steinberg and Charm Paulmeno

**DATE:** June 10, 2009

**SUBJECT:** American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) IDEA Section 619,  
Preschool Funds

As you know, the IDEA Section 619, Preschool funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) are available for obligation, subject to an approved narrative, from February 17, 2009 through September 30, 2011.

Following are allowable uses of the ARRA funding for Early Childhood Preschool Special Education that promote improved services to young children with disabilities. Please consider this a non-exhaustive list for your consideration as you prepare your application narrative and budget:

- Providing intensive community-wide professional development for special education and regular education teachers and related service personnel serving preschool children with disabilities on topics such as:
  - preschool positive behavior supports for young children with disabilities,
  - inclusion strategies for serving children with disabilities in school and community settings,
  - ongoing assessment tools used for child outcome measures,
  - appropriate uses of classroom data for instruction for preschool children with IEPs,
  - differentiated instruction and learning supports,
  - identification of young English language learners who have a disability and appropriate programming in preschool special education services, and

---

**June 10, 2009**

- trans-disciplinary play based assessment process for the identification of preschool children who may have a disability
- Developing or expanding the capacity to collect and use data to improve teaching and learning, including purchase and training for administrative unit use of ongoing-assessment tools to measure progress on child outcomes
- Developing or expanding the capacity to collect and use data to improve teaching and learning, including program evaluation
- Hiring coaches/mentors with appropriate special education qualifications to provide classrooms with expertise in positive behavior supports, inclusion, and differentiated instruction/learning support for preschool children with IEPs
- Obtaining state-of-the art assistive technology devices specifically for young children and providing training in their use to enhance access to the general curriculum for students with disabilities
- Hiring child find/transition coordinators with appropriate special education qualifications to handle referrals, provide summer evaluations, and provide case management through the IEP process
- Hiring, expanding hours, and contracting with qualified early childhood special education coordinators/program support teachers or other appropriately qualified special education personnel
- Providing parent leadership support and training for parents of preschool children with disabilities
- Supporting collaborations with higher education to increase the number of teachers with appropriate early childhood special education licenses
- Purchasing equipment for child identification/child find

Please note that all ARRA funds must be used to drive long-term educational reform and improvement. Please refer to CDE Recovery Alert #7 for information about how to accomplish that goal.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Charm Paulmeno at [paulmeno\\_c@cde.state.co.us](mailto:paulmeno_c@cde.state.co.us).