

# DENTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## DIVISION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Special Education Department

1307 North Locust

Denton, TX 76201

March 3, 2010

### **ARRA Funding for special education:**

Overview regarding the use of funds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) also known as stimulus funds. Denton received funding at two levels: Preschool 3-5, and Formula 3-21.

Denton ISD received \$108,660.00 in stimulus funds for the preschool program for children with disabilities (PPCD). There is a planning group in place for using these funds this summer in a Preschool Academy for all early childhood and pre-K, teachers. Principals with PPCD programs are involved in the planning. A survey of teachers was disseminated in January outlining what preschool and Pre K teachers wanted to know about working with young children.

In addition, the district received \$4,204,540.00 in stimulus funds for students with disabilities ages 3-21. This update will address the latter specifically.

### **Activities to date:**

Professional development in the areas for literacy training for identified special education teacher, a joint initiative between the Curriculum Department and Texas Woman's University.

Professional development on transition for the high school transition teachers through an international conference

Professional development for secondary campus leadership teams, curriculum secondary leadership team, special education leadership team as well as Fred Moore, Sparks, and Advanced Technology on professional learning communities

Professional development for parents of children with autism via the State Autism Conference

Professional development for campus teams (general educator, special educator, and campus administrator) for the Inclusion Works Conference

Student engagement in social skills training activities (autism)

Personnel to address inclusion, transition, case management, bilingual psychological needs, and student facilitation on certain campuses

Materials and equipment purchases in the area of software upgrades, assistive technology to enhance student access to general curriculum, listening devices for the hearing impaired, equipment for the production of Braille materials, supplemental texts for content areas and district-wide vocational assessment.

### **Pending Activities:**

A Summer **Get-Ahead** camp for students with disabilities entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall. This project is still in the planning stages with high school campus stakeholders. Each high school will host a 2-week

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summer program with emphasis on science and math for identified 9<sup>th</sup> graders. A rubric to help narrow the participant pool is under development.

The availability of these funds has allowed the department and the district to emphasize professional development, services for students and collaboration in a manner that otherwise may not have been achievable.

Funds have been allocated to use with parent involvement and parent training activities. Our Parent Advisory Committee-Engaged (PACE) is excited about their opportunities for training and development of tools that will be useful for families of students with disabilities.