

Education Stimulus Updates

A Technology Monitoring and Information Service (TechMIS)
SPECIAL STIMULUS FUNDING ALERT

Prepared by:
Education TURNKEY Systems, Inc.
256 North Washington Street
Falls Church, Virginia 22046-4549
(703) 536-2310 / (703) 536-3225 FAX

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There is very likely to be a significant change in how much of and when the stimulus package, which includes the Fiscal Stabilization Funds at approximately \$54 billion and perhaps Title I and IDEA at \$13 billion and \$12.2 billion respectively, will be disbursed to the states. A Department of Education Fact Sheet states, “Our goal is to get half of the [stimulus] money to the states within 40 days and the second half within six months, conditioned upon receipt of a comprehensive reform plan.” This would certainly apply to the Stabilization Fund for which the Governors/States’ plans must include numerous “assurances” and meet certain conditions such as maintenance of effort (MOE).

During the National State Title I Directors Association Conference on February 18th in San Antonio, U.S. Department of Education officials were not specific in terms of how much of the Title I and IDEA stimulus packages would go out by the end of March or early April. Even if the full amount for Title I and IDEA were to be distributed to the states at that time, it is not clear whether the SEA would reallocate all of the stimulus funds directly to the districts at one time or make two distributions, an approach which appears to be in concert with the Congressional Conference Report. A new USED website (www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html) is supposed to provide ongoing updates on decisions which will be made over the next several weeks regarding revised state and district allocations, and how much of, and when, such funds would be allocated to states. During the San Antonio Title I Conference, USED officials did not state when stimulus Title I and IDEA funding had to be “obligated,” but the consensus is September 30, 2011 for the two-year allocation. Please call Charles if you have any questions.