



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*  
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April 29, 2009

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Exceptional Children Program Directors  
Charter School Directors  
State Operated Program Directors

From: Mary N. Watson, Director  
Exceptional Children Division

RE: Recovery Funds

The overall goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) are to stimulate the economy in the short term and invest in education and other essential public services to ensure the long-term economic health of our nation. The following four principles guide the distribution and use of ARRA funds:

- Spend funds quickly to save and create jobs.
- Improve student achievement through school improvement and reform.
- Ensure transparency, reporting, and accountability.
- Invest in one-time ARRA funds thoughtfully to minimize the “funding cliff”.

The first 50 percent of the total funding from ARRA for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) will be allocated to LEAs, charter schools and state operated programs by the end of April 2009. The remaining 50 percent of new funds will be allocated in October 2009. All funds must be obligated by September 30, 2011.

As you plan for the use of these unprecedented funds, I encourage you to be strategic and data driven in your decision making. Please use your Continuous Improvement Performance Plan (CIPP) and data profiles to guide your expenditures. Focus on improved teaching and learning that will have a positive impact for children with disabilities.

Although we haven't received the final guidance on reporting, keep accurate records of your expenditures and the number of staff maintained or hired with the recovery funds, as well as the academic impact of all expenditures.

Questions related to the funding should be addressed to Laura Snyder at 919-807-3992 or [lsnyder@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:lsnyder@dpi.state.nc.us) or Valerie Herndon at 919-807-3996 or [vherndon@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:vherndon@dpi.state.nc.us). Feel free to contact our division staff for any additional assistance needed as you develop and implement a plan for ARRA-IDEA funds.

Attachment

## **EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION**

Mary N. Watson, Director

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