



Date: October 19, 2009
To: Dr. J. Brian Sarvis, Superintendent
From: Meg Jetté, Director, Fiscal Services
Subject: Special Education American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Disproportionality

Board Brief

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act include the largest single increase in Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) support ever provided by the federal government. These funds will allow districts to improve services to help students with disabilities achieve academic success.

The Santa Barbara School Districts will receive funding of approximately 3.3 million. These funds will be distributed through the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) incrementally until June 30, 2010.

The Finance and the Special Education department will redevelop a budget using these ARRA funds to supplement the existing special education program and it will reflect the recommendations of the Fiscal Crisis Management Team (FCMT) report to ensure the funds are maximized to its fullest extent. The revised budget will be presented to the board for approval on December 15, 2009.

Disproportionality

Special Education IDEA mandated each state to develop a way to calculate data, sets measurable and rigorous targets for regarding several indicators which follow the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) instructions. These targets or goals are that no LEA has disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education and related services overall or in specific disability categories (Mental Retardation, Specific Learning Disability, Emotional Disturbance, Speech or Language Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Autism) that are the result of inappropriate identification.

Last May, the California Department of Education (CDE) had identified the Santa Barbara Elementary School district as disproportional which means that the Elementary would not be able to use 50 percentage of its funding for its local contribution. However, later in June, CDE advised all district not to budget the 50 percent for local contribution until their final report is released. October 16, 2009 the CDE released the report and neither Santa Barbara Elementary nor the Santa Barbara Secondary was in violation. This means that the districts will be able to use 50 percent of the remaining IDEA ARRA funds to offset the encroachment ($880,258 - 50\% = 440,129$ for the Elementary and $\$1,835,314 - 50\% = 917,657$ for the Secondary).

Adams Elementary School	Harding Elementary School	Peabody Charter School	Goleta Valley Junior High School	Dos Pueblos High School
Cesar Chavez Charter School	Roosevelt Elementary School	Roosevelt Elementary School	La Colina Junior High School	La Cuesta Continuation High School
Cleveland Elementary School	Santa Barbara Charter School	Santa Barbara Charter School	La Cumbre Junior High School	San Marcos High School
Franklin Elementary School	Monroe Elementary School	Santa Barbara Community Academy	Santa Barbara Junior High School	Santa Barbara High School
	Open Alternative School	Washington Elementary School		