
Murphy Announces As Much As \$765 Million in Recovery Funds for Connecticut to Boost Education and Save Teaching Jobs

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WASHINGTON, DC - As Boards of Education and municipalities across Connecticut are writing their school budgets for next year, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) announced that as much as \$765 million for Connecticut's schools is now available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. This funding will lay the foundation to help save teaching jobs at risk of state and local budget cuts and to support education reform.

"This is great news for kids across Connecticut, and the teachers, administrators, and support staff who make providing quality education to the next generation their daily mission. I've been in contact with superintendents and municipal leaders across the Fifth District who are very concerned about how to fill their budget gaps for the coming school year. Today's announcement will help them make the right choice for our kids and our communities," said Murphy.

Today's announcement includes applications and guidelines for the \$541 million available to Connecticut under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (at least 81% of this funding must be used on education), \$70 million in Title I grants to local school districts, and nearly \$145 million in Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funding.

To receive State Fiscal Stabilization Funds, states must meet maintenance-of-effort (MOE) requirements of the law by showing that 2009 state education budgets at least meet 2006 state education budget levels. The State Fiscal Stabilization Funds must then be used to fill the gap to current levels, so that school districts don't experience any cuts.

Last week, Murphy wrote a letter to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to ask that he notify local school districts on the use of funds from the economic recovery law to protect teachers' jobs. In his letter to Secretary Duncan, Murphy outlined five different sections of federal law that allow local school districts to use Title I or IDEA in a flexible manner, each of

which would allow school districts to divert some of the federal funding to prevent layoffs.

Secretary Duncan's announcement includes guidance that addresses Murphy's questions and provides states and local school districts with more information about how to prevent layoffs, including notifying states that State Fiscal Stabilization Funds may be used for paying the salaries of administrators, teachers, and support staff.

"As school districts go through the process of finalizing their budgets, I will continue the dialogue we have started over the past few months to make sure that they are getting all the information and guidance they need from the federal Department of Education in a timely and concise manner," said Murphy.

For more information on the education spending in the recovery package, [click here](#).

To view the guidance issued by the Department of Education, [click here](#).

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