



Education Stimulus Funding FAQs for School Librarians

The following questions and answers were summarized by ProQuest from an [MDR Marketview Webinar](#) on the Education Stimulus Funding. The summary is intended to help librarians interested in renewing or purchasing ProQuest solutions that address these goals of the education stimulus funding: (a) **increasing student achievement** in essential literacy skills, and (b) **increasing teacher effectiveness** in using technology to expand 21st Century inquiry-based learning activities.

For more complete information on the Education Stimulus and ProQuest solutions that address the priorities of the Stimulus, check out the special [ProQuest Librarian Stimulus page](#).

Q1: Can you summarize what types of projects are targeted by each of the Stimulus funding types?

A: **Title I** funds are used to raise academic achievement levels among students failing and at risk of failing state academic achievement and content standards particularly in language arts. Teacher training and professional development in integrating technology for school reform is also a funding priority. Title I funding is received annually by schools where 40% or more of the students are poor. Stimulus Title I funds are in **ADDITION** to the NCLB annual allocation. Title I funding for the first time is **targeted for secondary schools (at least 40% of funds)**.

Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT, Title IID) is both a competitive and formula grant. Title I schools receive 50% of the funding annually through formula allocations. The remaining 50% is distributed through state competitions that include many non-Title I schools. This funding source is used by many librarians to purchase computer technology as well as ProQuest resources for students and teachers.

State Fiscal Stabilization funding for education is received by ALL school districts based on student population. The governor of the states determines the priorities for spending these funds. <http://www.staterecovery.org/education> (note the states column on right side)

Q2: How much and what funding is specifically available for school libraries?

A: There is **no dedicated money to support school libraries**. Local Education Agencies may spend some portion of Title I dollars **to support libraries** as long as the expenditure is **related to the district's plan to improve student achievement and advance education reform**. Since **Literacy through School Libraries** is part of ESEA, schools can use their **SFSF for this purpose**.

To the extent that school libraries purchase programs that are **designed to improve student achievement and are tied to the school's overall plans for closing the achievement gap**, it is possible that they will have the ability to support those programs using stimulus funds. In reality, it will depend on **how high the library stands on the school priority list**.

Q3: How about Improving Literacy through School Libraries Competition Program?

A: [Literacy Through School Libraries](#) (ESEA I-B-4) is a Title I competitive grant program. The grant application process just closed on March 6. No specific stimulus money was allocated to Literacy through School Libraries, but the **districts could spend Title I funds to support school libraries.**

Q4: Do supplemental products that align to standards, fill long-term gain criteria, especially if on timeless topics, i.e., watch for years?

A: Schools can use stimulus funds to purchase materials that support the goals of improving student achievement. While I see the marketing story in the “timeless topics” and “watch for years” approach, I think schools are more likely to **evaluate supplemental products** in terms of their **alignment to standards**—the extent to which the **materials support specific school programs focused on improving student achievement** and any evidence of product effectiveness, especially among the population of students with whom the schools want to use the materials.

Q5: We have an online content site which is being sold as an annual subscription. The price, per pupil, is not expensive. Should we continue selling it with an annual fee, or should we offer a multi-year price?

A: If districts or schools are buying subscriptions with ARRA funds, the **time limit must end at the end of ARRA.** Use the **ongoing NCLB funds for the ongoing subscriptions.**

Q6: One challenge with online content and software applications, annual subscription based -- will schools be hesitating to purchase subscriptions since the additional funds are temporary?

A: No, that will not stop sales. It gives them a great **opportunity to try these products that they might not have before** and then will extend their life through the ongoing funding sources, such as NCLB.

Q7: How do companies that sell online databases and have ongoing subscriptions fit in?

A: They can pay for two years with ARRA funds but **then will have to use ongoing sources, such as NCLB.**

Q8: Can you recap the threshold dates for the release of all the SFSF and ARRA funds on FY2009-2011?

- SFSF Funds 67% by the end of March 2009. Remaining 33% in the period from July 1 to September 30, 2009
- Title I Part A -- 50% by the end of March 2009. Remaining 50% in the period from July 1 to September 30, 2009
- School Improvement Grants and Educational Technology State Grants - Fall 2009 conditioned on the receipt of further information
- Teacher Incentive Fund, Teacher Quality Enhancement, State-Wide Data Systems - Fall 2009 through a competitive grant process

Q9: For the funding available at the end of March, when do you think the spending will start and how long do they have?

A: Schools are urged to spend their money quickly, so some spending will start before the end of this current school year. For Title I, 85% of all Title I recovery funds need to be obligated by September 30, 2010. The remaining funds will need to be obligated by September 30, 2011. State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) dollars are available for obligation at the state and local levels until September 30, 2011. States are encouraged to get the money to the districts by April 30.

Think carefully about your program(s) and the **ways in which they help support the goals of ARRA and the specific program you are targeting**. Craft your marketing **message around program benefits and cite any available evidence of effectiveness**. If possible, include a reference to a district in the same area or one with similar student demographics **that is successfully using the resource**.

Q10: Approximately how much of the stimulus funds are NOT targeted to Title I LEAs and available for all schools?

A: The K-20 portion of the SFSF money (\$39.8 billion) is intended to help schools **avoid cuts to programming** in 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. This money will be distributed using the **state's primary school funding formula**, so **ANY school can receive this money**.

Q11: Can the state legislature offset SFSF dollars by reducing state educational funding by an equal amount, with zero net gain for schools?

A: **No**. As part of the application for SFSF funds, **the governor must include an assurance that the state will maintain the same level of support for education in FY2009 through FY2011 as it did in FY2006**.

The **general rule** for all the Stimulus funding **will be to supplement, not supplant existing funding**. States that are in severe crisis can apply to the Secretary of Education for a waiver of this requirement. **California and Florida** appear to be likely to ask for such a waiver.

Q12: Will charter schools get any funding?

A: This is funding intended for American public schools. So charter schools that are part of the public school system will be eligible to receive these funds. Specifically, any public charter school that benefits now from IDEA, Title I, or EETT **will be likely to get a piece of the stimulus**. The stabilization fund is used first to backfill cuts through the state's school funding formula, so as long as the charter school gets money through the state's funding formula, it could get money through the stabilization as well.