



# PRICHARD COMMITTEE

---

## FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Kentucky Superintendents

**FROM:** Robert F. Sexton, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Use of Federal ARRA Stimulus Funds for Preschool and Parent Engagement

Federal ARRA Stimulus funds provide an opportunity for school districts to fund initiatives around two of the Prichard Committee's priorities-preschool and parent engagement. As you plan for use of these funds, we hope you will consider expanding and/or enhancing your preschool programs and parent involvement.

Title I Grants may be used to provide **preschool services** as defined in the excerpt below from the US Department of Education Web site.

Examples of potential uses of Title I, Part A ARRA funds that are allowable under Title I and consistent with ARRA principles:

- o Strengthening and expanding early childhood education by providing resources to align district-wide Title I pre-K program with state early learning standards and state content standards for grades K-3 and, if there is a plan for sustainability beyond 2010-11, expanding high-quality Title I pre-K programs to larger numbers of young children;

For more information go to: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/title-i.html>

Title I funds may also be used to support **parent engagement**. In fact, a requirement for the stimulus funds, as explained in the US DOE Guidance, Funds under Title I, Part A of the ESEA of 1965, is:

**Must an LEA meet the specific "set-aside" requirements in Title I, Part A with respect to Title I, Part A ARRA funds?**

Yes. Title I, Part A has several requirements under which an LEA must spend a specific amount of funds, usually Title I, Part A funds, on a particular activity. Those that are currently applicable are the requirements to spend:

- One percent for parent involvement activities if the LEA receives more than \$500,000 under Title I, Part A, Subpart 2 (Section 1118(a)(3)(A)).

For more information go to: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/title-i.pdf>

The Prichard Committee's interest is this. Title I schools have a parent involvement requirement and have dollars to spend. The Prichard Committee's Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership (CIPL) (and other parent engagement opportunities) is a shovel-ready way for districts to use the parent involvement set-aside to prepare parents to work with you to improve student achievement. CIPL can provide:

Professional development for Title I parent liaisons/facilitators and good preparation for parents who can partner with schools. The CIPL process includes six days of training plus up to two years of coaching and support for participants who receive a combination of information and skills so they can be active partners with a focus on improving student achievement in their schools. After attending training participants are expected to partner with their schools on a project that involves other parents who work to improve student performance in a lasting, sustainable way.

Good professional development for teams of early care providers and parents through its Starting Strong Institute. This downward extension of CIPL provides information and skills so teams work to improve child learning outcomes, increase family involvement, improve program quality, and implement a family engagement project at their early care program.

Parents and Teachers Talking Together (PT3) facilitated conversations (and facilitator capacity-building) between the adults who know students best.

Various capacity-building workshops for school staff interested in developing specific plans and strategies for involving parents in ways that promote improved student achievement.

Districts or groups of districts could contract with us to provide this training. Please contact **Beverly N. Raimondo, Director, Center for Parent Leadership/Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership**, at 859/233-9849 or [raimondo@prichardcommittee.org](mailto:raimondo@prichardcommittee.org).

As the Title 1 money flows to districts, you will have to find ways to spend these funds quickly. Both parent involvement and preschool are important components for raising student achievement. The availability of Federal stimulus funds provides a unique opportunity.

We hope you will consider these possibilities and would be glad to talk to you about our opportunities.