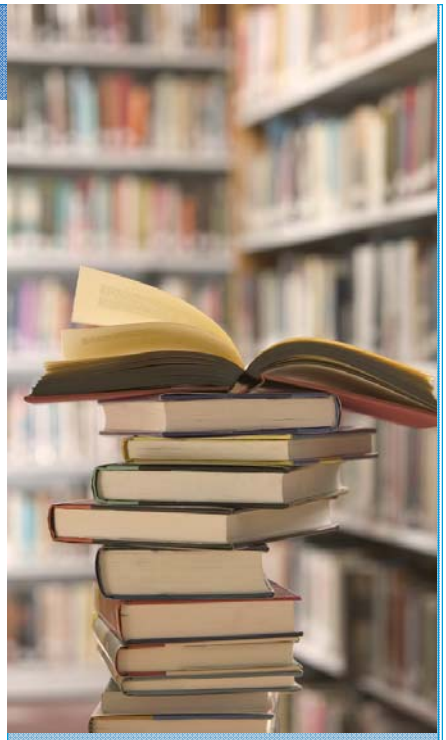
FEBRUARY 10, 2011
VOLUME VII, EDITION V

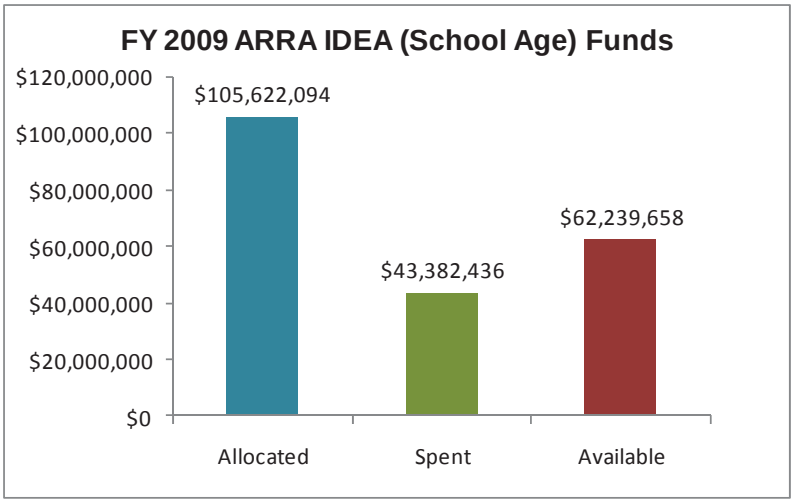
SASSIE NEWS

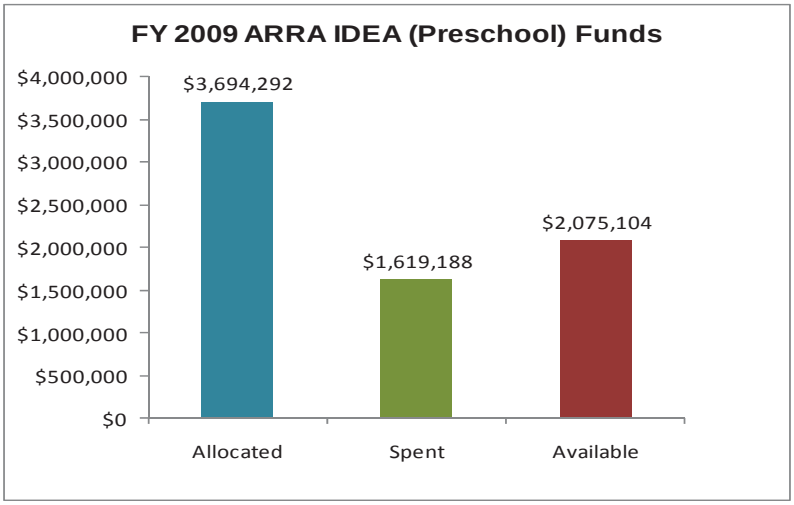


ARRA FUNDING AVAILABLE

For FY 2009, $109,316,386 were provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) for Utah programs under Part B of the IDEA. As of February, 2011, the USOE has received requests for LEA reimbursement totaling $45,001,624, which leaves $64,314,762 remaining to be spent **prior to September 30, 2011 and reimbursements requested by October 25, 2011**. Please refer to additional technical assistance information at http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/Quick-Links/IDEA-ARRA.aspx

Questions:
Jennifer Howell
Jennifer.howell@schools.utah.gov
801-538-7724





INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Assessment 2
Know Your Options 3
RtI Corner 3
Assessment..... .. 4
Common Core 5
Student Reading Proficiency..... 5
Math Formative Assessment 6
Professional Development. 6
Congratulations 8

IDEA ARRA Training

The Power Point presentations from the January 27th ARRA Training will be available on the USOE Special Education website soon. They will be located under the "Quick Links" tab and then the "IDEA ARRA" link, and also under the "Data Management and Finance" tab and then the "Finance" heading.

For ARRA reimbursement requests, use the following procedures:

- Request reimbursement through UCA
- Fill out *IDEA ARRA Reimbursement Request Description* form and submit to Glenna Gallo.

  The *Description* form is available in two places

  - http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/DOCS/arra/arrareimb.aspx
  - UCA document library

Questions:
Leah Voorhies
leah.voorhies@schools.utah.gov
801-538-7898

Assessment

This year 6th Grade Language Arts and Biology Criterion-Referenced Tests (CRTs) must be assessed on the computer-based assessment system. LEAs can still request Braille and large print assessments for these two assessments. The teacher of any student requiring a paper-based 6th grade language arts or biology CRT should contact Wendy Carver at wendy.carver@schools.utah.gov with the request. There are no answer documents for these two CRTs and the student responses will have to be input into the computer-based system by the teacher or the student. The Text-to-Speech tool is available for both of these assessments via the "screen reader" accommodation. Teachers may also read these assessments aloud to students, but the Text-to-Speech tool is recommended. Students should be given the opportunity to practice the Text-to-Speech tool via the CRT student training tests which are now available. Contact the LEA assessment director for help accessing these training tests.

Questions:
Wendy Carver
wendy.carver@schools.utah.gov
801-538-7639

New Website at the U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education today launched a new website that provides convenient and transparent access to key national and state education data, highlighting the progress being made across the country in every level of the education system and encouraging communities to engage in a conversation about their schools. The United States Education Dashboard, available at http://dashboard.ed.gov, presents important indicators of whether the country is making progress toward the President's goal – that, by 2020, the United States will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world.

http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-secretary-launches-united-states-education-dashboard

Know Your Options

Utah Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach Program (BPAO)/ Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Program (WIPA)

The Utah Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach Program (BPAO)/ Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Program (WIPA) helps people on Social Security disability understand how working impacts their Social Security and other benefits (including Medicaid, Medicare, food stamps, housing, and many others).

The Social Security disability and other public benefit programs can often be complex and hard to understand and navigate. The Benefits Specialist or Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC) can:

- Help people on Social Security understand Social Security and other benefit systems, what to expect, and what they need to do when there are changes in their employment status.
- Help people on Social Security learn about various work incentives available, and which ones they may be eligible for.
- Provide information about other programs and community resources that may also be helpful.
- Correct misinformation and provide accurate benefits information about each person's unique situation.

This is an important service for students with disabilities as they exit the public school system. Students and their families need to understand the possible impact of employment on benefits; BPAO Benefits Specialists may be available to speak to parent/student groups about benefits, employment, and the availability of work incentives.

These services are provided at no cost to the beneficiaries through a partnership between the Social Security Administration (SSA), Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR), the Department of Workforce Services (DWS), and the Work Ability Utah Project.

For more information, call 801-887-9530.

Utah Institute on Special Education Law

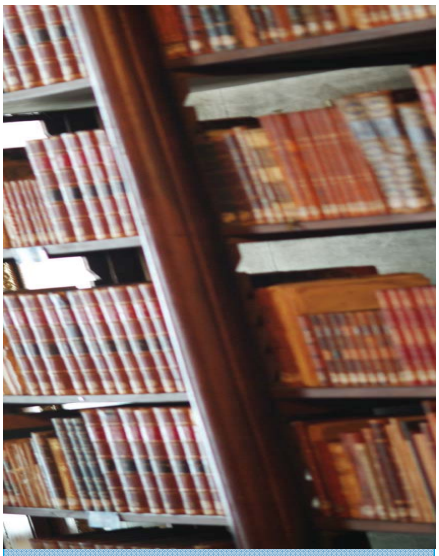
Reminder: Based on input gathered at the September, 2010 USEAM meeting, the Utah Institute on Special Education Law has been scheduled for:

August 8, 9, 10, 2011

Please submit topic suggestions using the survey sheet sent via e-mail.

USOE Personnel Changes

The USOE Special Education Services section recently announced a couple changes in personnel. We're sad to share that Paul will be leaving the special education section to spend more time in Teaching and Learning. Travis Cook will be transferring from YIC over to our section as an educational specialist for Data and Reporting. This change will take effect on February 22, 2011. You may reach Travis at travis.cook@schools.utah.gov.



Materials Available

The USOE Special Education Services has copies of the following materials available:

Utah Special Education Rules

Guidelines:

- SLD Eligibility
- Caseload
- Least Restrictive Behavioral Interventions (LRBI)
- Graduation
- Children with Special Health Care Needs

To order materials contact: nina.thompson@schools.utah.gov.

When ordering, please include the specific document name and number of copies requested and the address to which the materials should be sent.

RtI Corner

Progress monitoring, an important step to inform instruction, is the ongoing process of collecting and analyzing student data to determine a student's progress in the instructional or intervention setting.

Some questions that a school based team might ask when making data collection decisions.

1. What type of data will be collected?
   - Duration
   - Quality of product or performance (important as Utah moves toward the Common Core performance-based assessment).
   - Fluency
   - Frequency or rate

2. Where will the data be collected?
   - Classroom
   - Cafeteria
   - Playground
   - Job-site (secondary specific)
   - Other relevant situations/places

3. How often will data be collected?
   - Daily
   - Weekly
   - Monthly
   - Quarterly

4. Who will collect data?
   - Classroom teacher (general or special educator)
   - Job coach
   - Paraeducators
   - Instructional coach
   - Reading/Math coach

Whoever collects data should be provided quality professional development to ensure fidelity in the collection and analyzing data being used to determine progress. The progress being monitored or determined can be on specific skills or general outcomes for students in a classroom or school.

Questions:
Janet Gibbs
janet.gibbs@schools.utah.gov
801-538-7716

Common Core

To help understand the ELA Common Core, you may wish to read the three appendices. The appendices that will help with your understanding are:

1. Research supporting the key elements of the standards.
2. Literacy text examples and sample performance tasks.
3. Samples of student writing. This section provides an idea of the expectation of students in relation to the strong focus on argumentative writing in the Common Core.

At the USOE website http://schools.utah.gov/core/ is the alignment or "gap analysis" of the existing Utah ELA Core to the Common Core. Also, elementary mathematics "crosswalks" are available to identify what is in the existing Utah Mathematics Core as compared to the Common Core. The **Core Academy** for the summer of 2011 will focus on ELA K-5, 7-12 and Math 6 & 9. Each LEA will be allocated a specific number of slots. LEAs will decide who will be filling their allotted slots for the **Common Core Academy** trainings. Special Education Directors can work with their individual Curriculum Directors to ensure that special education is represented in both the ELA and Math Common Core Academy trainings.

Audits and Deadlines

OSEP Audit—The USOE received the report from the U.S. Dept. of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) monitoring visit to Utah in 2010. There were no findings of noncompliance. The report may be viewed in its entirety at http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/Laws,-State-Rules-and-Policies/Compliance.aspx

SPP/APR—The State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) were submitted to the U.S. Dept. of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on January 31, 2011. A full copy of each of these reports may be viewed at http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/Quick-Links/Performance-Plan.aspx.

IDEA Grant Application Public Comment Period

Look for the draft application of the Utah 2011-12 IDEA grant to be posted on the USOE website by March 1, 2011 for 60 days of public comment.

Questions:
Jennifer Howell
Jennifer.howell@schools.utah.gov

SB150 and Board Rule R277-403 Student Reading Proficiency

LEAs must identify and report any students in grades 1,2,3, reading below grade level, including those with significant disabilities. USOE identified DIBELSNext as one measure in addition to at least one other assessment for determining grade level. One of the "multiple assessments" to determine "grade level" for students with significant cognitive disabilities (a student who takes the Utah Alternate Assessment-UAA) **need not** be the DIBELSNext Middle of the Year DORF. When an LEA reports the number of students reading below grade who are receiving interventions, for significant cognitive students the IEP could be identified as the intervention.

Math Formative Assessment

Thursday, March 17, 2011
9:00 - 3:30 pm
Jones Center - 382 East 3605 South, Salt Lake City, UT

You have been selected to participate in the Math Formative Assessment using the Utah Test Item Pool Service (UTIPS) due to your expertise and willingness to help prepare students with significant cognitive disabilities for the future. New math test items have been developed with Enhanced Assessment Grant monies in conjunction with Idaho, Florida, and SRI International. Participants will learn to use the new test items for classroom use. Each teacher will have direct access to all the new math test items so they can prepare students for the new Alternate Assessment which Utah will begin piloting in the 2012-2013 school year.

Traveling more than 50 miles one way? A block of rooms at the State rate has been set aside at the Crystal Inn, 230 West 500 South, Salt Lake City, UT. Please Note: **You must confirm your reservations by February 18, 2011** - Phone: (801)328-4466

Mileage reimbursement will be paid and the cost of a substitute will be compensated as well.

RSVP: You must RSVP to Rondella Arambarri at rondella.arambarri@schools.utah.gov by Friday, March 4, 2011.

Please obtain approval from your Director of Special Education prior to contacting Rondella.

Professional Development Opportunities

Learning Disabilities Association of Utah (LDAU) Annual Conference

March 4, 2011 at the Scenic View Academy in Provo. Keynote by Bruce Bushnell of "Why Try". There will be breakout sessions and an evening youth session. For Parents and professionals of students and young adults with learning disabilities. Scholarships available.

Questions:
Nancy Adams
nancy.adams@schools.utah.gov
801-538-7906

State Behavior Roundtables March 17, 2011
Tim Lewis, Ph.D.
"Meeting the Behavioral Needs of Students"

Time 8:30 am to 12:00 pm.
Location for roundtables is Utah Museum of Fine Arts (UMFA), University of Utah, Marcie and John Price Museum.

Register early—space is limited. To register or request a flyer to distribute to your staff, please contact:

Nancy Adams
nancy.adams@schools.utah.gov
801-538-7906

The USOE will help LEAs provide substitute teachers on a cost share format. If you have specific questions contact:

carol.anderson@schools.utah.gov

Family Links 2011 Statewide Conference - March 25 - 26, 2011 at Murray High School

For more information on this popular conference visit the Family Links Website:

www.utahfamilylinks.org

State Significant Disabilities Conference - April 15, 2011 Provo Marriott

Our keynote speaker is Bryon Murray. He has been on the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council (UDDC), and served as President. Currently Bryon is the SABE Representative for Utah and the UDDC. He will speak on his school experience and the opportunities he has had for leadership and self-determination training.

Register on On Track

Questions:
Rebecca Lewis
rebecca.lewis@schools.utah.gov
801-538-7874

Educational Interpreters Performance Assessment (EIPA) Video Conference Workshops
Workshops will be offered three times in three different locations: St. George, Salt Lake City, and Ogden. (One workshop remaining. See below.)

April 16, 2011, Space, the Next Frontier! Register by April 13

Questions:
Rebecca Lewis
rebecca.lewis@schools.utah.gov
801-538-7874

Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) Roundtable - May 13, 2011 - 2:00-4:00 pm, Utah State Office of Education , Room 241

Topic: Common Core - Basic Information

Questions:
Nancy Adams
nancy.adams@schools.utah.gov
801-538-7906

Professional Development Opportunities

10th Annual Utah Recruiting Fair—February 25, 2011
Murray High School - 5440 S State Street, Murray, UT
6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Utah Council for Exceptional Children is arranging the 10th annual Utah Special Education Recruitment Fair on Friday, February 25, 2011 at Murray High School from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The fair is a month earlier this year to give Utah LEAs a first look at the next generation of teachers who are finishing their preparation and looking for opportunities. Last year we had over 120 (!) qualified applicants in all areas of special education. This is a Utah only event designed to keep our best people in Utah.
Utah Council for Exceptional Children is partnering with UPDC / Utah SPDG to host a New Teacher Conference for special education teachers in their first 3 years on April 6, 2011 at the Larry H. Miller Center. The keynote speaker will be Rick Smith, a dynamic presenter and the author of "Conscious Classroom Management."

Professional Development Leadership Institute
March 10 - 11, 2011

There will be a 2 day initial training and practice session on how staff developers can effectively use a set of online tools of modules and case studies to enhance the knowledge and skills of special education teachers in content areas. Time will be provided to design an implementation plan for aligning the modules with teacher standards and staff development needs.

OUTCOMES: participants will learn to use staff development resources in one or more of the following topics: Accommodations, Assessment (includes Progress Monitoring), Assistive Technology, Behavior and Classroom Management, Collaboration, Content Instruction, Differentiated Instruction, Disability, Diversity, Learning Strategies, Math, RTI (includes Early Intervening), Reading, Literacy, Language Arts, Related Services, School Improvement/ Leadership, and Transition.

Questions:
Bruce Schroeder
bruce.schroeder@schools.utah.gov

Utah CEC New Teacher Conference
April 6, 2011

Utah Council for Exceptional Children is partnering with UPDC / Utah SPDG to host a New Teacher Conference for special education teachers in their first 3 years. The keynote speaker will be Rick Smith, a dynamic presenter and the author of "Conscious Classroom Management." Breakout sessions will be held in the afternoon. New teachers will be able to attend at no charge.

Questions:
Ginny Eggen
geggen@updc.org

2011-2012 Discretionary Personnel Preparation Grants Notice

Grant Proposals are due in February for IHE Personnel Preparation discretionary projects for special education teachers and related servers.

Additional information is available at:

http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/Applications-and-Deadlines.aspx

EIPA Assessment Dates

The remaining EIPA assessment date is:

April 29-30, 2011

All assessments will be given at USDB in Ogden. USOE is still offering a $100.00 stipend for Utah educational interpreters.

Registration information:
www.task12.org

Congratulations

The following Special Educators have earned their Elementary Math Endorsement!

Way to go!!!

Last Name	First Name	District
Barker	Sandra	Wasatch District
Bordy	Christy	Wasatch District
Brady	Michele	Granite
Bryan	Kami	Nebo District
Bullard	Roseleta	Sevier
Bulloch	Melissa	Wasatch District
Carter	Danielle	Canyons
Crane	Lisa	Sevier
Davis	Donna	Granite
Hales	Olivia	Wasatch District
Haydock	Jaimie	Granite
Kern	Lynette	Alpine
Leber	Sue	Nebo District
Lowe	Marsha	Salt Lake
Lyman	Kayleen	Sevier
Miles	Heather	Salt Lake
Neilsen	Melanie	Alpine
Nelson	Benet	Granite
Nielson	Michelle	Sevier
Ross	Korin	Alpine
Simonds	Ann	Canyons
Snijman	Susan	North Sanpete
Tingey	Patricia	Jordan
Tobler	Alyson	Nebo District
Tolbert	Malynda	Sevier
Worner	JoElen	Jordan
Young	Katie	Canyons