

Stimulus Funds – American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA)

The River Valley School District received approximately \$424,000 in economic stimulus money from the federal government. Formally called the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), this federal stimulus money is designated for two specific areas—special education and Title I/remedial reading. While some flexibility exists within these two areas, the relationship between these programs and the use of stimulus money must be present—\$327,000 was earmarked by the government to be allocated toward special education programming with the remaining \$97,000 obligated to Title I/remedial reading.

Please excuse the complicated explanation that follows as I attempt to break down how this money will be used. Within the flexible expenditure boundaries, our School Board approved the use of the entire \$97,000 Title I funds to offset a portion of our 2009-10 district expenses toward Title I. Then, the School Board approved the use of \$156,000 of the \$327,000 special education stimulus money to offset 2009-10 district expenses toward special education services. The remaining \$171,000 has been approved for purchasing resources such as computers, Smart Boards, software, elementary reading books, elementary spelling program materials, and other purchases that support creative, innovative, and lasting instructional and learning opportunities.

In the end, about half of the stimulus money ($\$97,000 + \$156,000 = \$253,000$) offsets current annual district expenses. The remaining \$171,000 will purchase new resources for our classrooms.

For more information, feel free to contact Superintendent Jamie Benson at 588-2551.