

Executive Summary: Federal Stimulus Funding for Education

Summary: In February 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) which infused \$787 billion dollars into the economy to create and save jobs as well as improve student achievement through school improvement and reform. The District Special Education department received approximately \$1,171,575 dollars in ARRA funds. Program guidelines require funds to be spent by September 30, 2011. A copy of the guidelines provided by PDE is included in the attachments.

Stimulus spreadsheet documents all of the expenditures since 2009. Key areas targeted for stimulus funds were: assistive technology, reading (adolescent literacy), OT/PT equipment, drop out prevention, software for the WCCC, and professional development for administrators, teachers, parents, and Para educators (aides).

Request: The stimulus program is coming to an end and at this time, we are asking the BOD to approve one purchase using the approved stimulus dollars. The item that we recommend is:

Success Maker software upgrade for grades K-8 (\$75,000)

- *The **SuccessMaker** curriculum, aligned with national, state, and local standards and objectives, has a proven track record within the WCSD. These monies will be utilized to upgrade the technology with the new programs that are very engaging for all K-8 grade students in both mathematics and reading. The program's difficulty level adjusts automatically in response to the student's answers, thereby providing a learning experience that is neither too easy nor too difficult. This level adjustment, along with assessment and reporting tools, helps teachers and parents address areas of weakness and recognize progress.*

Financial Implications: All of these funds will be allocated through the IDEA Stimulus ARRA funds. These expenditures will help support special education programs while complying with the program guidelines requiring the expenditure of all funds prior to the end of September 2011.

Recommendation: That the BOD approves the purchase of SuccessMaker software not to exceed \$75,000.