

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

The Pearl Public School District received \$502,139 in Title I ARRA funds. The plan was written in order to achieve the following performance goals:

- By 2013-2014, all students will reach high standards, at a minimum attaining proficiency or better in reading/language arts and mathematics.
- By 2005-2006, all students will be taught by highly qualified teachers.

The ARRA Guiding Principles targeted were:

- Improve student achievement through school improvement and reform
- Invest one-time ARRA funds thoughtfully to minimize the “funding cliff”

The district set aside funds in the amount of \$170,356. These funds were to be spent on a summer school program, a computerized assessment system, and professional development. The ultimate goal of the targeted expenditures is for teachers to be more equipped with the necessary skills for improving student achievement; and to provide more tools necessary for an increase in overall student achievement.

The summer school program will be held at Upper Elementary targeting students currently in grades 3-5. The funds will be used to buy classroom materials in reading and math. Snacks will be provided as well as two buses for transportation. The plan is to have ten classes with no more than 12 students per class. Each class will have a certified teacher and a paraprofessional. Reading and math skills will be the primary focus of the program.

These funds have also purchased a computerized assessment system. The NWEA-Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment has been used twice this school year. The students were assessed in the fall and winter. The winter results were able to provide valuable information on students’ progress. Teachers are able to use the information to provide individualized lessons.

Professional development training has been purchased through Mississippi State University – Writing Thinking Institute. This professional development activities targeted teachers in grades 3-8. The activities began in July 2009 and continued though January 2010. Seven days of intensive training were provided to the teachers. The teachers received training on teaching the writing process as well as correlating the writing activities to the MCT2 objectives.

The district NWEA-MAP team also received one day of professional development training before implementing the new assessment system. A representative from NWEA-MAP conducted the training to the data teams at each building. He gave the

basic information on how to set up the information to upload to the data system. From his experiences as a principal in an elementary school that uses the system he was able to give first hand accounts of the best practices for implementing the use of the assessment tool and the data it provided.

Data Coach training has also been provided to data teams at each building (K-8). Bailey Education Group has conducted one day for the district team and separate trainings at each school. The consultant uses the time to assist the teachers and administrators on how to use the data received from the new computerized assessment system NWEA-MAP. At each building data plans have been prepared and implemented to ensure that sound decisions are made for each individual student and for the entire school based on current data.

The table below shows the ARRA allocations for each school and expenditures.

Schools	Amount Allocated	Expenditures
Lower Elementary	\$83,318	Parent Science Night, parent activity booklets, Accelerated Reading books, technology training for teachers, 18 Promethean boards
Northside Elementary	\$81,084	Parent Math night, Math manipulatives, Accelerated Reading books, technology training for teachers, part-time interventionists, 5 Promethean boards, 4 REDCAT amplification systems, 3 response systems, 2 printers and supplies
Upper Elementary	\$71,772	Family Math meeting materials, classroom library books, recorded books, Accelerated Reading books technology training for teachers, 8 Smart boards, 9 response systems, 1 printer, 18 ELMO document cameras
Junior High	\$95,609	MCT2 parent night materials, calculators, 13 Smart boards, 1 wireless computer lab, 1 printer and supplies