



# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2010-2011 Mid-Year Report

## Overview

In June 2009, Austin Independent School District (AISD) received \$17.3 million for initiatives from 2009–2011 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (ARRA IDEA). Of the \$17.3 million, \$16.9 million were allocated to IDEA-Part B; the remaining funds were for IDEA Preschool. After set-  
In tases



### **Students, Staff, and Families Served**

ARRA IDEA activities that served students include a wide variety of projects, such as early intervention services, computer-based prescriptive instruction, and vocational supports for students with disabilities. In these instances, students receive direct services and educational program support. A

“Quality of Module Materials,” and “Relevance to My Current Position;” 79% rated the course 4 or 5 on “Activities Reinforced Learning;” and 85% rated the course 4 or 5 on “Overall Evaluation.”

In August, a survey was sent to staff members from campuses that had the highest TAKS 2010 passing percentages in reading and math among special education students. From the responses, lists of best practices and effective resources were compiled, presented in district meetings, and made available online. In addition, during 14 trainings sessions, 490 in-service staff members heard the course content (10/20/10-11/17/10).

letters) available on district servers so that staff can access them easily in the future, and purchasing classroom materials (e.g., books, software) that can be used for years to come. With the current district budget crisis, there are many unknowns. However, continued funding for some project activities may be secured through creative and efficient use of existing funds or new grants. Some project activities or job responsibilities may be assigned to existing staff. Also, some projects will be discontinued due to lack of funds.

## **Summary**

A year and a half into implementation, ARRA IDEA-funded projects across AISD have created or saved 110.2 jobs and served 7,746 students, 4,265 staff and 2,029 family members. Project staff have maintained transparency with stakeholders, set measurable goals, and monitored their own progress. Some examples of progress made by projects during this time period were presented, including project activities completed, numbers of staff trained, and survey responses collected. Despite challenges along the way, project staff are preparing for the future by planning ways to sustain critical and required activities to support and educate students with disabilities through capacity building of staff and seeking more efficiency in provision of essential services. A forthcoming report at the end of the grant will provide a more detailed analysis of the ARRA-IDEA funded progress toward meeting the goals of eliminating the student achievement gap, reducing disproportionality, improving special education processes, reducing student dropout and increasing graduation rates, and improving teacher quality.

## Appendix

Appendix A: Summary of Funding, Expenditures, and Services Provided Through ARRA IDEA, by Project, December 2010



| Project   | Total Allocation | Expenditures as of 12/10 | Jobs Created /Saved | Students Served * 7/10-12/10 | Staff Served * 7/10-12/10 | Family Served * 7/10-12/10 |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| PPCD evaluation team for timely evaluations of children ages 3-5  | \$576,035        | \$334,796                | 3.49                | 365                          | 198                       | 365                        |
| Develop dropout recovery/ at-risk student programs at targeted campuses   | \$440,000        | \$135,803                | 2.00                | 20                           | 54                        | 20                         |
| Provide computer-based prescriptive instruction at middle and high schools  | \$745,772        | \$674,185                | 2.00                | 2,091                        | 141                       | 2                          |
| Develop model inclusion demonstration schools and classrooms/ Increase staff capacity to support access to general curriculum | \$1,880,000      | \$886,053                | 2.30                |                              |                           |                            |