



Online News

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AESA Online News

February 17, 2009

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AESA News

1. Economic Stimulus Plan's education programs

President Obama's Economic Stimulus Plan, officially the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will provide \$100 billion for education programs. AESA, AASA, NSBA, and other organizations provided significant input to the education proposals; and, called upon the membership to make contact with members of Congress in both the House and Senate to support or oppose proposals with examples of how funding or cuts would impact student learning at the regional and local levels.

AESA will be forwarding to ESA Superintendents/CEOs an analysis of the Act detailing opportunities for ESAs and programs for LEAs that is being completed by one of its Washington DC legal firms, Patton and Boggs, which provides due diligence reports on AESA's Business Partners. The firm's public policy group is completing the analysis for its education clients.

Below is the bullet analysis from our joint efforts with our AASA legislative team:

- \$53.6 billion for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, including:
 - \$39.5 billion for local school districts using existing funding formulas, which can be used for preventing cutbacks and layoffs, school modernization or other purposes;
 - \$5 billion to states as bonus grants for meeting key performance measures in education,

- including \$650 million for innovation grants to school districts; and
- \$8.8 billion to states for high-priority needs such as public safety and other critical services, which may include education, and for modernization, renovation and repairs of public school facilities and institutions of higher education facilities.
 - \$10 billion for Title I State Grants to help close the achievement gap and enable disadvantaged students to reach their potential.
 - \$3 billion for Title I School Improvement Grants to help build capacity to assist schools identified as in need of improvement.
 - \$11.3 billion for Special Education/IDEA, Part B Grants to States to improve educational outcomes for disabled children. This level of funding will increase the federal share of special education services to its highest level ever.
 - \$400 million for special education services for children ages 3 to 5 under Section 619 of IDEA.
 - \$500 million for special education services for children ages birth to 3 under Part C of IDEA.
 - \$650 million for Enhancing Education Through Technology, Title II, Part D of ESEA to increase access to technology within classrooms and increase use of technology by teachers.
 - \$70 million for the McKinney Vento Homeless Act to recognize the increasing number of student now homeless due to the economic downturn.
 - \$200 million for the Teacher Incentive Fund to allow for grants to school districts for creative teacher compensation plans.
 - \$250 million for Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems to increase the capacity of the state to develop and maintain the comprehensive student data systems required to implement growth models.
 - \$100 million for food service equipment under the National School Lunch Program.
 - \$15.6 billion to increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$500. This aid will help seven million students pursue postsecondary education. In addition, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act includes the following tax provisions for education:
 - \$2.8 billion to extend the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds to provide no-interest loans for renovation, repairs and technology, distributed to states based on population and within states based on need.
 - \$22 billion in Tax Credit Bonds for new construction. This is a new school bond program distributed to states based on the Title I formula. Forty percent of these bonds are directed toward the 100 largest school districts by number of children below the poverty line, and the remainder is for other school districts.

2. Call for 2009 Conference Sessions to go out in March

AESA will be distributing the Call for Proposals for ESA Concurrent Sessions for the 2009 AESA Annual Conference in March. The AESA Conference Committee is in the final stages of determining the content strands. The conference will be held December 2-5 at the Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas.

3. Former ESA executive heading up ECS' National Center for Learning and Citizenship

JoAnn Henderson, former executive director of Alaska's Southeast Regional Resource Center (SERRC) at Juneau, has been named executive director of the Education Commission of the States' National Center for Learning and Citizenship. Henderson was active in AESA programs while at SERRC, including serving on the AESA Government Relations Committee. The Education Commission of the States is the only nationwide, nonpartisan compact devoted to education. It assists governors, legislators, state education officials and others to identify, develop, and implement public policies to improve student learning at all levels. The ECS is a nonprofit organization located at Denver, Colorado. For more information, go to: www.ecs.org .

4. Perspectives seeking manuscripts

AESA is soliciting manuscripts for the 2009 edition of its research journal, Perspectives. Authors interested in publishing research should send inquiries or manuscripts to Dr. William Keane, 415 Pawley Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, MI 48309. For additional information, contact Dr. Keane at 248 370-3045.

5. Former ESA staffer publishes book on servant leadership

Joseph "Rocky" Wallace, formerly Adult Education Director and Director of Instructional Support at Kentucky Educational Development Corporation, an ESA at Ashland, Kentucky, has published "*Principal to Principal: Conversations in Servant Leadership and School Transformation*." Wallace is now an instructor of Professional Programs in Education at Morehead State University, Kentucky, According to the website of publishers Rowan and Littlefield (<http://www.rowanlittlefield.com>) :

Principal to Principal: Conversations in Servant Leadership and School Transformation takes the reader into the real world of school leadership, as a retiring elementary principal and his successor engage in a 12-month mentoring partnership. Packed with emotion and the complexities of the twenty-first century school, the story weaves in and out of the day-by-day transformation that can take place when past paradigms and traditions are challenged, and students are put first. The unleashed potential of the servant leadership model, and the critical importance of core values, vision, and strategic change are addressed with passion and intensity as the two colleagues discover together how fast a school can really change—if the human resources are all focused on the same goal: creating a great school that meets the variety of needs of every child it serves—no exceptions.

ESA News

6. ESAs seeking help with performance pay, service sharing with municipalities, and school bus maintenance cooperatives

AESA has received three requests for information from member ESAs. We are asking if any agencies operate, or have information about any of these program areas, to please send the information to AESA, which will forward it to the appropriate ESAs. Please send the information to: pyoung@aesa.us .

- **Performance Pay**

An ESA board has requested information regarding performance based pay models for administrators.

- **Municipality Service Sharing**

An ESA has asked if there are any agencies that have successfully partnered with their local municipalities or county governments for service sharing.

- **School Bus Maintenance Cooperative**

An ESA considering a competitive bidding process to develop consortia for school bus maintenance would like to contact agencies that provide school bus maintenance services to discuss how those programs operate.

AESA Business Partners News

7. Promethean provides web-based leadership series

Promethean, in partnership with Cisco, is pleased to announce the Innovation in Education series. These informative sessions will feature the top thought leaders in K-12 education and are designed as a forum to discuss educational practices and solutions that work, stimulate creative thinking, and inspire transformation in education to meet the needs of the 21st Century Learner. Guests in the series will include Alan November, Dr. Robert Marzano, Debra Pickering, Grant Wiggins, Marc Prensky, Ron Clark and other education thought leaders.

The webcast of the first speaker, Alan November, is available online now. He is discussing big ideas from his latest book, "Web Literacy for Educators." In this first interview of a three-part series, Alan explores new and emerging trends in technology integration, and discusses the kinds of information and social tools that support student-centered learning.

To register for this free webcast series, please go to:

www.prometheanplanet.com/tls2009

AESA Business Members News

8. VIP Tone joins AESA, will host March webinar with Alameda County Office of Education

VIP Tone is AESA's newest Business Member. Serving over 3,600,000 students and over 100,000 teachers in over 7,000 schools around the globe, VIP Tone helps educators create world-class school environments with one integrated solution for their learning, communication and collaboration needs. VIP Tone's product set consists of EduTone™, a pre-integrated K-20 educational software and content services delivery platform infrastructure (www.edutone.com); VIP PBX™, an IP telephony communication and messaging system; and School MATRIX®, an education resource planning (ERP) solution. VIP Tone is a privately held company headquartered in Alameda, California. For more information, visit the VIP Tone web site at www.viptone.com.

Alameda County Office of Education and VIP Tone will be hosting a webinar series in March entitled: *EduTone: Next Gen ESA Infrastructure for Doing More with Less while Improving Student Achievement and Enhancing School Efficiencies*. For more information call: 866-901-8663 Ext:9007 or log into: edutone.com/webinar.

US Department of Education Announcements

9. President Obama's and Vice President Biden's Education platform

President Obama and Vice President Biden believe that our kids and our country can't afford four more years of neglect and indifference. At this defining moment in our history, America faces few more urgent challenges than preparing our children to compete in a global economy. The decisions our leaders make about education in the coming years will shape our future for generations to come. Obama and Biden are committed to meeting this challenge with the leadership and judgment that has been sorely lacking for the last eight years. Their vision for a 21st century education begins with demanding more reform and accountability, coupled with the resources needed to carry out that reform; asking parents to take responsibility for their children's success; and recruiting, retaining, and rewarding an army of new teachers to fill new successful schools that prepare our children for success in college and the workforce. The Obama-Biden plan will restore the promise of America's public education, and ensure that American children again lead the world in achievement, creativity and success.

Early Childhood Education

- **Zero to Five Plan:** The Obama-Biden comprehensive "Zero to Five" plan will provide critical support to young children and their parents. Unlike other early childhood education plans, the Obama-Biden plan places key emphasis at early care and education for infants, which is essential for children to be ready to enter kindergarten. Obama and Biden will create Early Learning Challenge Grants to promote state Zero to Five efforts and help states move toward voluntary, universal pre-school.
- **Expand Early Head Start and Head Start:** Obama and Biden will quadruple Early Head Start, increase Head Start funding, and improve quality for both.
- **Provide affordable, High-Quality Child Care:** Obama and Biden will also increase access to affordable and high-quality child care to ease the burden on working families.

K-12

- Reform No Child Left Behind: Obama and Biden will reform NCLB, which starts by funding the law. Obama and Biden believe teachers should not be forced to spend the academic year preparing students to fill in bubbles on standardized tests. They will improve the assessments used to track student progress to measure readiness for college and the workplace and improve student learning in a timely, individualized manner. Obama and Biden will also improve NCLB's accountability system so that we are supporting schools that need improvement, rather than punishing them.
- Support High-Quality Schools and Close Low-Performing Charter Schools: Barack Obama and Joe Biden will double funding for the Federal Charter School Program to support the creation of more successful charter schools. The Obama-Biden administration will provide this expanded charter school funding only to states that improve accountability for charter schools, allow for interventions in struggling charter schools and have a clear process for closing down chronically underperforming charter schools. Obama and Biden will also prioritize supporting states that help the most successful charter schools to expand to serve more students.
- Make Math and Science Education a National Priority: Obama and Biden will recruit math and science degree graduates to the teaching profession and will support efforts to help these teachers learn from professionals in the field. They will also work to ensure that all children have access to a strong science curriculum at all grade levels.
- Address the Dropout Crisis: Obama and Biden will address the dropout crisis by passing legislation to provide funding to school districts to invest in intervention strategies in middle school -- strategies such as personal academic plans, teaching teams, parent involvement, mentoring, intensive reading and math instruction, and extended learning time.
- Expand High-Quality Afterschool Opportunities: Obama and Biden will double funding for the main federal support for afterschool programs, the 21st Century Learning Centers program, to serve one million more children.
- Support College Outreach Programs: Obama and Biden support outreach programs like GEAR UP, TRIO and Upward Bound to encourage more young people from low-income families to consider and prepare for college.
- Support College Credit Initiatives: Barack Obama and Joe Biden will create a national "Make College A Reality" initiative that has a bold goal to increase students taking AP or college-level classes nationwide 50 percent by 2016, and will build on Obama's bipartisan proposal in the U.S. Senate to provide grants for students seeking college level credit at community colleges if their school does not provide those resources.
- Support English Language Learners: Obama and Biden support transitional bilingual education and will help Limited English Proficient students get ahead by holding schools accountable for making sure these students complete school.
- Recruit Teachers: Obama and Biden will create new Teacher Service Scholarships that will cover four years of undergraduate or two years of graduate teacher education, including high-quality alternative programs for mid-career recruits in exchange for teaching for at least four years in a high-need field or location.
- Prepare Teachers: Obama and Biden will require all schools of education to be accredited. Obama and Biden will also create a voluntary national performance assessment so we can be sure that every new educator is trained and ready to walk into the classroom and start teaching effectively. Obama and Biden will also create Teacher Residency Programs that will supply 30,000 exceptionally well-prepared recruits to high-need schools.
- Retain Teachers: To support our teachers, the Obama-Biden plan will expand mentoring programs that pair experienced teachers with new recruits. They will also provide incentives to give teachers paid common planning time so they can collaborate to share best practices.
- Reward Teachers: Obama and Biden will promote new and innovative ways to increase teacher pay that are developed with teachers, not imposed on them. Districts will be able to design programs that reward with a salary increase accomplished educators who serve as mentors to new teachers. Districts can reward teachers who work in underserved places like rural areas

and inner cities. And if teachers consistently excel in the classroom, that work can be valued and rewarded as well.

Higher Education

- **Create the American Opportunity Tax Credit:** Obama and Biden will make college affordable for all Americans by creating a new American Opportunity Tax Credit. This universal and fully refundable credit will ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is completely free for most Americans, and will cover two-thirds the cost of tuition at the average public college or university and make community college tuition completely free for most students. Recipients of the credit will be required to conduct 100 hours of community service.
- **Simplify the Application Process for Financial Aid:** Obama and Biden will streamline the financial aid process by eliminating the current federal financial aid application and enabling families to apply simply by checking a box on their tax form, authorizing their tax information to be used, and eliminating the need for a separate application.

Students with Disabilities

- Obama and Biden will work to ensure the academic success of students with disabilities by increasing funding and effectively enforcing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and by holding schools accountable for providing students with disabilities the services and supports they need to reach their potential. Obama and Biden will also support Early Intervention services for infants and toddlers, and will work to improve college opportunities for high school graduates with disabilities.

President Obama's education program is posted online at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/education/>