

Using ARRA Funds to Drive School Reform

Addressing the Questions for Decision-Makers

ARRA funds are intended to be used to improve student outcomes and to advance reforms that have a long-term impact. The U.S. Department of Education has provided guidance on spending the funds, asking decision-makers to consider whether they can answer “yes” to five questions. Here’s how BrainWare Safari makes it easy to say “yes” to all five.

Will the proposed use of funds ...	BrainWare Safari
<p>Drive results for students? Will the proposed use of funds drive improved results for students, including students in poverty, students with disabilities and English language learners?</p>	<p>Yes. BrainWare Safari develops the underlying cognitive skills that increase students’ learning capacity and boost their performance across the curriculum. Students from low-income families improved their cognitive skills by an average of 6 years in one study. Another study ties improved academic performance to cognitive skill development. BrainWare Safari directly addresses the needs of students with a broad range of learning disabilities and supports accelerated learning with ELL students. Students have improved their academic ability by an average of almost 2 years in 12 weeks of using BrainWare Safari.</p>
<p>Increase capacity? Will the proposed use of funds increase educators’ long-term capacity to improve results for students?</p>	<p>Yes. By increasing student learning capacity and ensuring that every student has the basic skills to take in, process, understand and retain information, their long-term capacity for success is dramatically enhanced. Students will be able to benefit from good teachers and good curriculum more rapidly and with more lasting results than they have been able to do. Teachers will be able to engage students in more challenging material, work on higher-order thinking and problem-solving, and cover more material more efficiently.</p>
<p>Accelerate reform? Will the proposed use of funds advance state, district, or school improvement plans and the reform goals encompassed in ARRA?</p>	<p>Yes. BrainWare Safari develops each child’s cognitive skills individually to help him/her become the most effective learner he/she can be by removing the stumbling blocks to learning. Cognitive skill development can give new and real meaning to our desire as a nation to leave no child behind. BrainWare Safari also offers a series of professional development offerings that focus on helping teachers teach with a solid understanding of the brain and how the latest brain research can help them be more effective.</p>

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<p>Avoid the cliff and improve productivity? Will the proposed use of funds avoid recurring costs that states, school systems, and schools are unprepared to assume when this funding ends? Given these economic times, will the proposed use serve as “bridge funding” to help transition to more effective and efficient approaches?</p>	<p>Yes. BrainWare Safari is available through a special stimulus package that affordably transitions schools through the stage of putting all students through cognitive skill development as an intervention. Most schools should be able to rotate students through the program within two to three years, after which the program can be institutionalized at a particular grade level and a reduced cost. In the course of the implementation, the district/school should recognize significant savings in the areas of special education, response to intervention, and other remedial interventions, leaving them more effective and efficient with a broad array of students. Moreover, teachers with a solid understanding of brain-based education should be prepared to deliver education far more effectively and efficiently.</p>
<p>Foster continuous improvement? Will the proposed use of funds include approaches to measure and track implementation and results and create feedback loops to modify or discontinue strategies based on evidence?</p>	<p>Yes. BrainWare Safari enables teachers and administrators to track student use of and progress through the program. We work with schools/districts to implement the program so that existing measures of academic progress are used to demonstrate evidence of improvements in performance. There is no incremental testing/evaluation burden placed on the school or teachers. The program has delivered significant benefits everywhere it has been used.</p>

This document has been prepared based on the April 24, 2009 publication “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Using ARRA Funds to Drive School Reform and Improvement.” The full document is available at www.ed.gov/recovery.

For more information on BrainWare Safari:

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