



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

ROCHELLE R. HENDRICKS
Acting Commissioner

September 20, 2010

Dear Superintendent and Members of the [School District Name] Board of Education,

As you know, Governor Christie submitted an application for federal education funding under the Education Jobs Act. The U.S. Department of Education announced recently that New Jersey's application for \$268 million in federal funds has been approved.

The allocation to [School District Name], according to New Jersey's school funding formula, is [Dollar Amount]. We must work together to make sure this money is used to improve the quality of education and that it helps put our districts on a path to financial sustainability.

The U.S. Department of Education requires the Education Jobs funds be spent by September 2012. With your staff and budget set for the 2010-2011 school year, I urge you to be mindful of how and when these funds are spent. While record levels of total federal, state and local funding have been made available to schools in recent years, the next budget cycle promises to be challenging. Therefore, please consider reserving this one-time funding for the 2011-2012 school year if possible.

Similarly, I encourage your district to avoid spending decisions that would significantly grow future-year obligations that could prove to be unsustainable. In other words, these one-time funds should not only preserve critical jobs, they should provide your district with the breathing room needed to plan for educationally sound, balanced budgets in the austere days to come. It is unwise to assume that there will be additional streams of federal jobs money in planning for the future.

The U.S. Department of Education allows these funds to be used for non-classroom costs, such as cafeteria workers, bus drivers and coaches, but it is my hope that this unexpected revenue will be directed to those areas most likely to help our students excel academically, namely classroom activities. I am confident that meeting the needs of your students is your number one priority.

The federal restrictions on how this funding can be used, the significant expenditure reporting requirements, and the application required of school districts which did not receive funding under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) will be provided in a separate communication. Spending will be carefully monitored to ensure that accurate reports can be filed with the U.S. Department of Education detailing how these funds were used to retain, rehire or hire new teachers or support personnel. Please note that as with all federally funded positions of Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) members, each local board of education shall reimburse the State for the employer's cost of benefits.

Brief guidance from the U.S. Department of Education is enclosed. You can access more information on the program in the Federal Government's guidance document, located here: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/educationjobsfund/applicant.html>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rochelle R. Hendricks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "H".

Rochelle R. Hendricks
Acting Commissioner of Education

Enclosure