

Middletown Township Public Schools
Karen L. Bilbao, Superintendent of Schools
Fact Sheet – ARRA Funding and Full Day Kindergarten Revised Plan
June 15, 2009

- Approximately 2.6 million dollars from the *American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA)* funding must be allocated by September 2011.
- Funding is coming in through *IDEA*, but priority for spending is to maximize opportunities for inclusion.
- The hearing on June 2, 2009 was intended to present a proposal for spending ARRA funds, including a plan to implement full day kindergarten based on a two year phase-in.
- Extensive public input, that was received before and after the public hearing on June 2, has led to the reconsideration of the initial proposal, as reflected in the following:
 1. Special education initiatives that can be charged to ARRA funding are:
 - a. Affective Education initiatives
 - i. Consultants for social skills training i.e. Jed Baker...
 - ii. Sign language education/affective education teacher (i.e., “*It’s O.K. to be Different*”)
 - b. Assistive technology/technology
 - i. Instructional software
 - ii. FM systems
 - iii. Lending library of specialized materials and software
 - c. Additional furniture for self-contained classrooms
 - d. Sensory room for occupational therapy
 - e. Life skills centers in self-contained classes
 - f. Vocational centers in self-contained classes
 - g. Specialized formative assessments for students with disabilities
 - h. Classroom paraprofessionals to support the inclusion of students with disabilities
 - i. Professional development
 - i. LEADS/IDEAL
 - ii. LEAP
 - iii. High school redesign
 - iv. Technology/assistive technology training
 - v. Paraprofessional training
 - vi. Inclusive education
 - vii. Substitutes for teachers to collaborate with one another

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2. Also based on public input and extensive consideration, the district has decided to revise the full day kindergarten proposal that was presented at the June 2nd Public Hearing. The revised proposal will allow for implementation of full day kindergarten for **all** age-eligible students in **all** elementary schools by September, 2009. The proposal is as follows:
 - a. There are fourteen (14) existing kindergarten positions and twenty-two (22) additional positions projected, based on estimated enrollment, to implement district-wide full day kindergarten. Seventeen (17) of the twenty-two positions needed will come from reconfiguration of existing positions, including five (5) from the Multi-age Program and two (2) from the Inclusion Kindergarten Program.
 - b. ARRA funds can be used to free up district funds that will ultimately allow the district to hire the five (5) remaining teachers needed to complete the district-wide implementation of full day kindergarten by September of 2009.
 - c. Classroom space for additional kindergarten classrooms will come from converting existing space within elementary schools (i.e. art rooms, computer labs, libraries), allowing children to attend kindergarten in their home schools.
 - d. Computers will be distributed to elementary classrooms and libraries so technology can be integrated into the curriculum.
 - e. When a library must be converted to a classroom, another appropriate space will be converted into the library.
 - f. Special subjects will be delivered in the classrooms with teacher materials transported on carts.
 - g. Additional classroom space is still available in some buildings if enrollment increases.