



Arkansas Education Association  
An NEA State Affiliate

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## **AEA Encourages School Districts to Restore Cut Jobs and Improve Student Achievement with Federal Education Jobs Fund Monies**

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. – The Arkansas Education Association recommends that the approximately \$90 million that Arkansas received from the federal Education Jobs Fund be used to aid in the state's economic recovery and improve student achievement in the public schools.

"We strongly encourage school districts that receive these funds to first apply them toward restoring jobs that were lost in the economic downturn," said AEA President Donna Morey. "Restoring those quality teachers and other education professionals to their jobs will not only help those who lost their jobs, but it will also help our students."

These funds must be used by Sept. 30, 2012, and only for school-level employee compensation and benefits and other expenses, such as support services necessary to retain existing employees, recall or rehire former employees and hire new employees.

"Once that goal is accomplished, or if a school district did not lose any jobs," President Morey added, "we'd like to see these funds used in additional ways that will improve student achievement."

The Arkansas Department of Education is encouraging school districts to use these funds to support the salaries and benefits of current teachers and staff that provide the daily educational and related services to students. A Commissioner's Memo on the ADE Web site stated, "This will free up state and local funds needed to provide capital projects and additional support of programs dedicated to improving student achievement."

Each school district's allocation from the Education Jobs Fund can be viewed at <http://arkansased.org> under the Commissioner's Memos in the "Quick Links" section.

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