From the OEP

According to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), Arkansas will receive a total of $692,592,093 in education funds and $284,402,150 for Federal Pell Grants. This table shows how the education funds will be divided, according to the USDOE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arkansas Education Funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational Rehabilitation Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Living Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services for Older Individuals who are Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Work Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Fiscal Stabilization Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For other news in Arkansas and around the nation, be sure to visit our In the News section on the OEP website. Enjoy the weekend!

News from Around the Natural State

Education Stimulus Funds Coming to Arkansas
The Arkansas Department of Education and Higher Education will receive $692,592,093 from the federal stimulus package, according to the U.S. Department of Education.
Education Top Priority for Legislators
In addition to the lottery bill, there are around 30 other education bills being considered. These include health benefits for teachers and helping schools better work with children in military families.

Walton Family Contributes $2.9 Million for Math, Science Initiative Program at UALR
The Walton Family Foundation of Bentonville will provide a $2.9 million grant to help the Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science (AAIMS) match the $13.2 million received last year from ExxonMobil to participate in the National Math and Science Initiative.

News from Around the Nation

Rush to Pump Out Stimulus Cash Highlights Disparities in Funding
An Education Week article addresses a concern from some experts concerning which states will receive funding from the economic-stimulus bill because the distribution will be based on the existing federal formulas. Therefore, rural districts may not receive needed money because of their small enrollment numbers, while states that have not been forced to cut K-12 funding may still get their share and have additional money.

Teach for America Helps At-Risk Schools, Students Make the Grade
Susan Reid, a jovial principal at Compton Drew Middle School in St. Louis, can’t say enough good things about the instructors from Teach for America.

Students Stand When Called Upon, and When Not
Inside this Minnesota classroom, an experiment is going on that makes it among the more unorthodox public school classrooms in the country, and pupils are being studied as much as they are studying. Unlike children almost everywhere, those in Ms. Brown’s class do not have to sit and be still. On the contrary, they may stand and fidget all class long if they want.

Site Seeing

Edutopia (What Works in Public Education of the George Lucas Educational Foundation) is a resource that educators may find very useful. Edutopia has six core concepts: technology integration, social and emotional learning, project learning, integrated studies, comprehensive assessment, and teacher development. The site provides videos and “real-life examples” of ways to incorporate each of these core concepts to improve the classroom. There are other helpful tools, such as a magazine, webinars, and a blog. Be sure to check out this site!

Mark Your Calendar
The next State Board of Education meeting is scheduled for March 16. For more information, visit the OEP calendar.
Final Thoughts

“Arkansas students need to prepare to compete in a highly competitive global market. For many careers and jobs in the future, mathematics and science will be the ticket to the game.” – UALR Chancellor Joel E. Anderson

Thanks for reading! See you next week!

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