

DOE Questions from the FSFOA Conference

- For Districts that qualify to get all their FEFP in the 1st quarter, will stabilization funds be included?
 - Districts will draw these federal funds as needed. They must be spent within 3 days of the drawdown, just as other funds. We have not been notified of the release schedule by the Governor's Office at this time, however, there has been discussion of quarterly release of the funds.
- The Stabilization funds are divided between education and discretionary. Are these funds tracked with separate project numbers?
 - Yes. See the DOE website.
- In the required state budget submitted to the State, are stabilization funds to be included with general fund or special revenue? If they are shown in special revenue, this will cause a big drop in general fund.
 - They are to be reported in the special revenue funds (see fiscal technical assistance paper on the DOE website). The Department and Legislative staff are aware of the implications and will make appropriate adjustments in items, such as program cost factors.
- In the required TRIM notice Budget Summary that has "The proposed operating budget expenditures of the School Board are X% than last years total operating expenditures" are the stabilization expenditures included to arrive at that percentage?
 - Just as with other special revenue funds, the stabilization funds should be included.
- 0.25 Super vote millage if used in General Fund will it be equalized? If used in Capital Funds it is not equalized?
 - If the supermajority millage is designated for operating purposes, it will be compressed. If designated for capital purposes, it will not be adjusted for compression.
- Are There anticipated revenue reductions at this time? If so, what %?
 - At this time, we are cautiously optimistic that there will not be a holdback on general revenue funds, however, the Governor's Office has not made a final decision on this issue.
- When will ARRA funds begin being funded?
 - Stabilization funds are available July 1 for districts that have approved applications.
- May the school board levy additional millage less than .25 mills?
 - A school board may levy discretionary operating millage of 0.498 up to 0.748. However, compression will be adjusted based on 0.498 for any amount less than 0.748, but at least 0.498. If this question relates to the supermajority millage levy, the answer is no. The board must levy the entire 0.25 mills.
- May the school board transfer only a portion of the .25 mills from General Fund to Capital Outlay.
 - I don't understand the question. Which millage levy does the question relate to?
- Does FDOE recommend substituting non-ARRA funds for Charter Schools share of ARRA funding?

- This is an option available to districts, but funding for each charter school student must be equivalent to funding for each traditional public school student.
- Explain how the limit of 6 paid holidays affects year round employees?
 - We need to do more research on this issue.