

Schools Get a Boost to Keep More Teachers

School districts across Iowa will receive a boost next month to keep more teachers in the classroom. This will happen because Congress approved an additional \$96 million in the Education Jobs Fund for Iowa. Each school district will receive approximately \$174.92 per weighted enrollment.

School districts can see their allocation at the following website, which was created by Iowa's Department of Education:

www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=10053&Itemid=1507

The Education Jobs money must be used for compensation, benefits, and other expenses. This includes such items as support services necessary to retain existing employees, to recall or rehire former employees, and to hire new employees, in order to provide early childhood, elementary, or secondary educational and related services at the school building level. Schools should rely on the guidance provided by the Iowa Department of Education.

Schools are generally prohibited from using the Education Jobs money for: general administrative expenses, including district- and regional-level personnel; debt retirement or rainy-day funds; unemployment benefits; and program or other expenditures other than personnel.

School districts have until September 30, 2012, to obligate the funds. School districts are required to track and account for proper use of the funds.