

## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Using ARRA Funds to Drive High School Improvement

Prepared by the National High School Center at AIR







The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) presents a unique opportunity for states in the U.S. to accelerate high school improvement and graduate more students with the ability to demonstrate globally competitive skills. ARRA funding programs focus on (1) adopting rigorous college- and career-ready standards and high-quality assessments; (2) establishing data systems and using data for improvement; (3) increasing teacher effectiveness and equitable distribution of effective teachers; and (4) turning around the lowest-performing schools. These additional funds will also enable districts to acquire new and emerging technologies, create state-of-the-art learning environments, and offer additional training and support for teachers to ensure that students acquire the skills they will need to compete in a global economy.

Recent Congressional appropriations for the Department of Education build on the significant investment in education provided by ARRA to leverage essential improvements in secondary education and expand opportunities for students to enter and succeed in colleges and universities. The 2010 budget priorities include: challenging standards and assessments; more effective teaching and school leadership; and scaling up successful practices.

By coherently harnessing new and existing funding streams around the goal of maximizing student achievement, states will be better positioned to sustain investments and efforts initiated by the one-time ARRA funds long after they are spent.

To help states and districts, policy makers, educators and other interested stakeholders understand the provisions of ARRA and how to use the appropriated funds, the National High School Center has organized its resources around the four ARRA core reforms as guidance for how to apply ARRA so that it has the greatest impact on high school improvement. All resources are free to access and may be downloaded from the National High School Center Web site, [www.betterhighschools.org](http://www.betterhighschools.org).

### Standards/Assessment

	Approaches to Dropout Prevention: Heading Early Warning Signs With Appropriate Interventions		Educating English Language Learners at the High School Level: A Coherent Approach to District- and School-Level Support
	Eight Elements of High School Improvement: A Mapping Framework		High School Course-Taking Patterns for English Language Learners: A Case Study from California
	Preparing High School Students for Successful Transitions to Postsecondary Education and Employment		Report on Key Practices and Policies of Consistently Higher Performing High Schools

## Standards/Assessment



Transitioning Out of High School: A Quick Stats Fact Sheet

## Data Use



Approaches to Dropout Prevention: Heeding Early Warning Signs With Appropriate Interventions



Developing Early Warning Systems to Identify Potential High School Dropouts [Early Warning System Guide & Tool]



Dropout Prevention for Students With Disabilities: A Critical Issue for State Education Agencies



Educating English Language Learners at the High School Level: A Coherent Approach to District- and School-Level Support



High School Dropout: A Quick Stats Fact Sheet



Meeting the Needs of Significantly Struggling Learners in High School: A Look at Approaches to Tiered Intervention



New Hampshire's Multi-Tiered Approach to Dropout Prevention



Quick Stats Fact Sheet: High Schools in the U.S.



Selected States' Responses to Supporting High School English Language Learners



State Approaches to More Reliable and Uniform Dropout and Graduation Data

## Teacher Effectiveness



Improving Literacy Outcomes for English Language Learners in High School: Considerations for States and Districts in Developing a Coherent Policy Framework



Meeting the Needs of Significantly Struggling Learners in High School: A Look at Approaches to Tiered Intervention



New Hampshire's Multi-Tiered Approach to Dropout Prevention



Report on Key Practices and Policies of Consistently Higher Performing High Schools



Striking the Balance: Career Academies Combine Academic Rigor and Workplace Relevance

## Turnaround High Schools

### Systemic Improvement



Eight Elements of High School Improvement: A Mapping Framework



Emerging Evidence on Improving High School Student Achievement and Graduation Rates: The Effects of Four Popular Improvement Programs



Quick Stats Fact Sheet: High Schools in the U.S.



Report on Key Practices and Policies of Consistently Higher Performing High Schools



States' Progress Toward High School Restructuring

### Dropout Prevention



Approaches to Dropout Prevention: Heeding Early Warning Signs With Appropriate Interventions



Developing Early Warning Systems to Identify Potential High School Dropouts [Early Warning System Guide & Tool]



Dropout Prevention for Students With Disabilities: A Critical Issue for State Education Agencies



High School Dropout: A Quick Stats Fact Sheet



State Approaches to More Reliable and Uniform Dropout and Graduation Data

### Dual Enrollment



Findings from the Early College High School Initiative: A Look at Best Practices and Lessons Learned Regarding a Dual Enrollment Program

## Turnaround High Schools

### Transitions into High School



Easing the Transition to High School: Research and Best Practices Designed to Support High School Learning



Managing the Transition to Ninth Grade in a Comprehensive Urban High School



Toward Ensuring a Smooth Transition Into High School



Quick Stats Fact Sheet: The First Year of High School



State and District-Level Support for Successful Transitions into High School

### Postsecondary Pathways



Evaluating the Impact of Interventions that Promote Successful Transitions from High School



Preparing High School Students for Successful Transitions to Postsecondary Education and Employment



Striking the Balance: Career Academies Combine Academic Rigor and Workplace Relevance



Transitioning Out of High School: A Quick Stats Fact Sheet

### English Language Learners



Educating English Language Learners at the High School Level: A Coherent Approach to District- and School-Level Support



High School Course-Taking Patterns for English Language Learners: A Case Study from California

## Turnaround High Schools

### English Language Learners



Improving Literacy Outcomes for English Language Learners in High School: Considerations for States and Districts in Developing a Coherent Policy Framework



Selected States' Responses to Supporting High School English Language Learners

### Tiered Interventions



Meeting the Needs of Significantly Struggling Learners in High School: A Look at Approaches to Tiered Intervention



New Hampshire's Multi-Tiered Approach to Dropout Prevention