

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that \$862 million in education funding from the recently approved economic recovery bill has been released for schools in New York to help save education-related jobs and maintain programs for low-income students and students with disabilities. Specifically, New York schools will receive an estimated \$453 million in Title I funds and \$409 million in IDEA funds immediately. Hinchey helped pass the economic recovery in the House while advocating for even higher levels of funding to be allocated to school districts in New York.

Nationwide, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$13 billion in Title I funds, which helps low-income students, and \$13.5 billion in IDEA funds, which helps students with disabilities. This is the first of two installments of direct funding for Title I and IDEA programs that school districts will receive under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; the second installment of funds will be released to districts in the fall of this year.

"This \$862 million in special federal funding will help school districts across New York close their budget gaps so that children who need the most assistance can continue to receive the focused education services they need," Hinchey said. "I was proud to support the economic recovery bill when it came before Congress because I know how badly school districts throughout our state need additional federal support during these difficult economic times. By investing in our children today, we are providing them with tools they need to succeed down the road, which will have a wide array of benefits for our country too."

In addition to the Title I and IDEA investments, the economic recovery plan also created a state stabilization fund to help stabilize state and local budgets and restore harmful cuts to education. Along with announcing the release of funding for local districts, the Obama administration also issued guidelines today to clarify how these funds must be used to help clear up recent confusion over whether the state can decide how local districts and colleges use those funds. States can also now apply for this funding. New York is eligible to receive more than \$3 billion in state stabilization funding.

The guidelines confirm that while states allocate the funds, it should be up to local school districts and colleges and universities to decide how to use this emergency aid, not the states. The guidelines also reaffirmed that state stabilization funds should be used for three purposes: to backfill harmful cuts to K-12 and higher education, to stave off teacher layoffs, and to modernize school facilities – which could create new jobs.

IDEA is the major federal program that provides funding for special education and related services to students with disabilities. The Title I program provides funds to low-income school districts that are in even greater need during the economic downturn. The funds appropriated through the Recovery Plan are distributed through the previously defined IDEA and Title I formulas.