

# Public Policy Notes

## Southern Early Childhood Association

### Additional Stimulus Money: How Much for Your State?

The U.S. Department of Education has been releasing additional funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) over the last few months and SECA states have been the beneficiary of that additional funding.

States were required to submit applications to receive funding and those applications required that states provide the following:

1. How teachers and principals are evaluated and how this information is used.
2. The extent to which a state has a statewide longitudinal data system.

3. How the states provide student growth and assessment to teachers to inform instruction.
4. The number of Title I schools in improvement.

#### The additional allocations (as provided in the Department press releases):

Alabama:	\$59,635,587
Arkansas:	\$ 119,807,496
Florida:	\$728,916,950
Georgia:	\$416,063,701
Kentucky:	\$175,823,202
Louisiana:	\$191,265,519
Mississippi:	\$129,328,422
N Carolina:	\$383,437,416
S Carolina:	\$56,774,130

Tennessee: \$255,794,562  
Virginia: \$324,000,000  
W Virginia: \$71,930,420

Award information on Oklahoma and Texas was not available as of July 15, 2010.

“This data is a critical tool in helping us work together—with students, parents, teachers, administrators, community leaders and elected officials at every level—to improve education for students,” according to Secretary Arne Duncan.

Press releases for each of the states and copies of their applications are available at [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).

July 2010

Volume 3, Issue 7

#### Inside this issue:

National Board for Ed Sciences	2
School Improvement	2
Child Care Funding	2
Senator Robert Byrd	3
High Risk Insurance Pools	3
Governor Manchin & NGA	3
F is for Fat	4

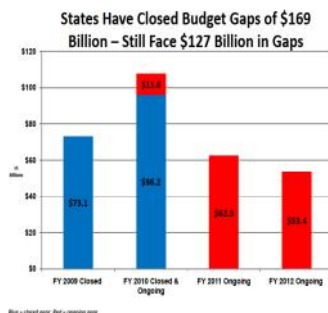
[www.Data.ed.gov](http://www.Data.ed.gov)

On June 18, 2010, the U.S. Department of Education launched [data.ed.gov](http://data.ed.gov), a website that will eventually serve as a “one-stop shop for education data and allow practitioners, researchers and the public to access data that can inform their work in classrooms and communities across America.” This site is part of the Open Government Initiative.

### Fiscal Survey of the States: Challenges Ahead

The National Governor’s Association and the National Association of State Budget Officers has issued a biannual report, *Fiscal Survey of the States 2010*.

With the decline of the federal stimulus dollars and less tax revenue, states face a 2011 fiscal year that won’t show much improve-



ment. Federal stimulus funds are expected to decline by \$55 billion in fiscal year 2011, and there is an anticipated 12% decline in federal fund tax revenues. Some states have already made mid-year budget cuts of \$22 billion in FY 2010. For a copy of the report, go to [www.nga.org](http://www.nga.org).

## National Board for Education Science

The National Board for Education Sciences, a presidentially appointed panel of the Institute of Education Sciences, has two members with ties to the SECA region.

U. S. Secretary of Arne Duncan announced the appointment of four new members to the Board in June. One of those members is **Dr. Margaret R. McLeod**, Executive Director of Student Services and Special Education in the **Alexandria City Public Schools, VA**.



Margaret McLeod

The chair of the Board is **Dr. Eric Hanushek**, the Paul and Jean Hanna Senior Fellow in Education at the Hoover Institution, Leland Stanford Junior University and chairman of the Executive Committee for the **Texas Schools Project at the University of Texas at Dallas**.



Eric Hanushek

The Board serves as an advisory arm of the Institute of Education Sciences and regularly evaluates the work of the Institute to ensure that its

research, development, evaluation and statistical analyses are consistent with the standards set out in the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002.

The mission of the Institute of Education Sciences is “to provide rigorous and relevant evidence on which to ground education practice and policy and to

share this information broadly. By identifying what works, what doesn’t and why, we aim to improve educational outcomes for all students.”

Source: <http://ies.edu.gov>

## School Improvement Grants: Funding for SECA States

As part of the 2009 federal budget and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the U.S. Department of Education set aside money to fund School Improvement Grants. These funds are targeted to help states turn around their lowest performing schools...

**schools that have failed to meet adequate yearly progress goals for two years or are “persistently lowest achieving” schools.** In order to receive the funds, school districts must certify that they will implement one of four models. The first model, the **TURNAROUND**

**MODEL**, requires drastic steps: Replace the principal, screen existing school staff and rehire no more than one half of the current teachers, adopt a new governance structure, and improve the school through curriculum reform, professional development, ex-

**“Turning around our worst performing schools is difficult for everyone but it is critical that we show the courage to do the right thing by kids.”**

**Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education**

tending learning time and other strategies.

Other models include the **RESTART MODEL** (close and re-open the school); **SCHOOL CLOSURE** (close the school and transfer students); and the **TRANSFORMATION MODEL** (replace the principal).

For your state’s funding allocation and more information, go to <http://www2.ed.gov/program/sif>.

## House Committee Votes Increase for Child Care Funding

The **House Labor-Health & Human Services Subcommittee** marked up its FY 2011 funding bill on Wednesday, July 14th, and included a **\$700 million increase for the Child Care & Development Block Grant. Head Start also received a proposed increase of \$866 million.** (Mark up means that the Subcommittee produced a budget recommendation that will now go to the full Committee.)

The proposal is \$1.5 billion below the

President’s request but the proposed increases would maintain the additional funding that was available this year through the ARRA. These proposed increases are the largest increases received for CCDBG since 2000.

The **Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education** may finalize its proposal next week. The following members of the Subcommittee are from the SECA region: **Mary Landrieu (LA)**, Mark Pryor

(AR), **Thad Cochran (MS)**, **Kay Bailey Hutchinson (TX)**, **Richard Shelby (AL)** and **Lamar Alexander (TN)**.

**Note:** **Arkansas** utilized the economic recovery funds to provide child care subsidies to an additional 12,000 children; however, that funding is now depleted and the previous waiting list of 5,000 has doubled as the ARRA subsidies are no longer available to those families. Source: [www.nwlc.org](http://www.nwlc.org)

# West Virginia Loses Its Elder Statesman



Senator Robert C. Byrd

With the death of Senator Robert C. Byrd at the age of 92 on June 28, 2010, the U.S. Senate lost its longest serving member, and West Virginia

lost its elder statesman.

Robert Byrd entered the "U.S. Senate in 1959, the same day that Alaska became a state. He served longer and cast more votes -18,689- than any other senator in history. He twice rose to

become Senate majority leader, and, because of his seniority, was the Senate president pro tempore, putting him third in line for the presidency behind the vice president and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi." *AR Democrat-Gazette, July 2, 2010.*

*"Senator Byrd's story was uniquely American. He was born into wrenching poverty, but educated himself to become an authoritative scholar, respected leader, and unparalleled champion of our Constitution. He scaled the summit of power, but his mind never strayed from the people of his beloved West Virginia. He had the courage to stand firm in his principles but also the*

*courage to change over time....He held the deepest respect of members of both parties, and he was generous with his time and advice, something I greatly appreciated as a young senator."* Statement of President Obama on the Passing of Senator Byrd, [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov).

On Friday, July 16th, West Virginia Governor Manchin announced that Carte Goodwin, his former chief counsel, will fill the seat until an election can be held in the fall. **This temporary appointment will ensure that the Democrats maintain their 60 vote majority in the U.S. Senate.**

## High-Risk Insurance Pools: What's Available in Your State?

On July 15th, a provision of the Health Care Reform law took effect. New or existing high risk insurance pools will be available in every state. Americans who have been denied coverage by an insurer because of a pre-existing health condition can apply for insurance through these pools. (This applies only to individuals, not group/employer plans.) This is a stop-gap measure in the reform law to bridge the gap between 2010 and 2014, when insurers

will be required to accept all applicants, regardless of previous health conditions. \$5 billion is dedicated to operating these pools.

The states have the option of operating

**For information on how to apply and the eligibility criteria for your state , go to [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).**

their own insurance pool or letting the federal government operate the pool. Twenty-one states have opted to let the federal government operate the pool, while twenty-nine states will operate their own pool. **State administered pools:** Oklahoma, Arkansas, North Carolina, West Virginia. **Federally administered pools:** Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia.

## West Virginia Governor Assumes Chairmanship of NGA

*Governor Joe Manchin of West Virginia* assumed the chairmanship of the National Governor's Association during their annual meeting this month. Each chair of the Association adopts a policy and program platform during his year as Chair, and Governor Manchin's initiative is **Complete to Compete**.

*Complete to Compete* will "focus on increasing the number of students in the United States who earn college degrees and certificates and improving the pro-

ductivity the country's higher education institutions.

In addition to raising awareness about the need to increase college completion and productivity, *Complete to Compete* aims to create a set of common higher education completion and productivity measures that governors and higher education leaders can utilize to monitor state progress and compare performance to other states and between insti-

tutions."

A report, *Complete to Compete: Common College Completion Metrics* was released during the meeting. A technical guide for states will follow.

Source: [www.nga.org](http://www.nga.org)



Joe Manchin, III

## Southern Early Childhood Association

1123 S. University, Ste 255  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
PO Box 55930  
Little Rock, AR 72215-5930

Phone: 800-305-SECA  
Fax: 501-227-5297  
E-mail:

info@southernearlychildhood.org

Southern Early Childhood Association



"A Voice for Southern Children"

We're on the Web!  
www.southernearlychildhood.org

## How to Use This Newsletter

If you're interested in advocacy, one of the most effective tools that you can have is access to information. This newsletter is provided as a service to locate and share information that we think will be helpful to you in your work at the state level and to keep you updated on what's happening in public policy.

You'll find information that:

- **Compares your state to other SECA states**—how you're doing, what issues you have in common, what the hot topics are in your states.
- **Brings the national scene to your fingertips** and gives you a perspective on how national events might impact you...You'll also receive information about where to find additional information.

We hope you'll find it helpful. Children need you to be their "voice" in your community and state.

## The South Tops the Adult Obesity List

*"F" as in Fat: How Obesity Threatens America's Future 2010* was released by the Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in June 2010.

The report examines obesity trends in the United States on both the adult and childhood obesity levels. Americans are becoming increasingly concerned about the effect of obesity on the well-being of the nation with 80% of Americans realizing that childhood obesity is a serious problem.

Of increasing concern beyond that of childhood obesity for which rates have stabilized, is the **increasing percentage of American adults who are obese**. Of the top 10 states in

the country with the highest obesity rates, the SECA region claims all 10 spots. Only Michigan is outside of the region and the state ties with North Carolina for the 10th spot. SECA states by rank:

1. **Mississippi** (33.8%)
2. **Alabama** (31.6%)
3. **Tennessee** (31.6%)
4. **West Virginia** (31.3%)
5. **Louisiana** (31.2%)
6. **Oklahoma** (30.6%)
7. **Kentucky** (30.5%)
8. **Arkansas** (30.1%)
9. **South Carolina** (29.9%)
10. **North Carolina** (29.4%)

*"This year's F as in Fat report offers ample evidence that individuals, families government, the business community, educators, health care providers, and many other sectors of American society are increasingly willing to invest time, energy, and resources to solve the obesity crisis."* For a copy of the full report, go to:

<http://healthyamericans.org>

