



Lunch program to receive \$1.7 M

More schools in Mississippi will have the opportunity to outfit their cafeterias with equipment that can help make school lunches more nutritious through an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act competitive grant program.

The state will receive more than \$1.72 million to improve infrastructure for the National School Lunch Program. The money will be used to buy equipment like convection ovens, steamers and combination oven steamers,

which improve the quality of meals at school by substantially reducing the number of calories and fat consumed by students. Individual schools may be awarded up to \$38,000 each.

“These funds will help us provide opportunities for our students to be fit, healthy and ready to succeed in the classroom and beyond,” Office of Healthy Schools Director Shane McNeill said.

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Hank Bounds agreed: “It is imperative that we set

a good example for our boys and girls by providing lunches that are good-tasting and nutritious. I’m proud that our schools are working to achieve that.”

For more information on the application requirements, visit the Office of Healthy Schools’ Web site at www.healthyschools.ms.org. For more information about ARRA and the National School Lunch Program, visit www.fns.usda.gov/fns/recovery/recovery-nslp.htm.

RECENT NEWS BRIEFS

SFSF applications approved in 19 states including Miss.

To date, applications for State Fiscal Stabilization Funds have been approved for 19 states including Mississippi. Twenty-eight states and Washington, D.C., have yet to apply.

At \$53.6 billion, the stabilization fund is the largest pot of money for education in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Mississippi received a total \$321 million.

District-of-the-month to be featured in ‘The ARRA Update’

The Mississippi Department of Education will feature an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act “District-of-the-Month” in one of the two issues of *The ARRA Update* published each month.

If your district is using funds in a particularly innovative and creative way, let us know so we can pass on the good news to others and celebrate your success in the column.

E-mail your ARRA stories to Pete Smith, MDE director of communications, at psmith@mde.k12.ms.us.

QUICK RESOURCES

For more information visit www.mde.k12.ms.us/stimulus/

Questions and comments can be e-mailed to arra@mde.k12.ms.us

NUTRITIOUS AND DELICIOUS



Did you know providing students with healthy choices at lunch can also help them be successful in their studies? ARRA funds can help you get the right equipment to do just that.

‘Race to Top’ leader chosen

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan has made it clear that the “Race to the Top” funds will be doled out to innovative states with creative ideas that can be quickly implemented and still move the needle on achievement.

To further that goal, he recently appointed Joanne Weiss, who has worked with the New Schools Venture Fund, a national nonprofit philanthropy firm, during the last eight years leading its research agenda and overseeing operations.

“We may never have an opportunity like this again to dramatically improve our country’s educational system with huge investments in a few strategic areas to make changes that are deep and foundational,” Secretary Duncan said recently. “Joanne will help us push a strong reform agenda that is entrepreneurial in spirit, providing carrots and sticks, to change the way we do business, and fundamentally turn around underperforming

schools in ways that last for decades.”

Throughout her career, Weiss has helped to pioneer innovative work to increase the effectiveness of teaching and learning processes.

Prior to joining New Schools Venture Fund, she was CEO of Claria Corporation, an e-services recruiting firm that helped emerging-growth companies build teams quickly and well. She was senior vice president of product development at Pensare, an e-learning company that created business innovation programs for the Fortune 500 market.

Prior to Pensare, she was co-founder, interim CEO, and vice president of products and technologies at Academic Systems, a company that helps hundreds of thousands of college students prepare for college-level work in mathematics and English.

Weiss holds a degree in biochemistry from Princeton University.