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.

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.

**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