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Council of the Great City Schools
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On the One-Year Anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

WASHINGTON -- One year ago today, February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has been a financial lifeline for the nation's urban schools. ARRA provided nearly \$100 billion in various forms of federal assistance to the nation's schools and higher education institutions to help weather the economic tsunami. The \$40 billion in general aid and the \$60 billion in categorical and school facilities aid provided critical resources to maintain essential education operations nationwide in 2009 and into 2010.

Tens of thousands of critical education jobs of teachers, guidance counselors, school nurses, instructional coaches, and other support personnel have been saved with ARRA funds, most frequently in our highest poverty schools. Urban school districts facing increased class sizes -- at times exceeding 30 students *per* teacher -- were able to maintain more reasonable pupil-teacher ratios. Moreover, urban districts also were able to undertake key reform initiatives such as Response To Intervention (RTI), coaching and teacher mentoring, school leadership academies, performance management systems, early dropout warning systems, positive behavior support systems, early childhood projects, extended time programs, new Title I schools, high school transition, credit recovery, assistive technology, and much more.

On this anniversary of the ARRA enactment, the Council stresses that school district revenues from state and local sources are generally in a more desperate condition than in February of 2009. The Council calls on Congress to pass a Jobs bill this month that will directly maintain the hundreds of thousands of education jobs which will be lost waiting for the economic recovery to reach the school and community level.

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