



- Atlanta Chief Honored, **p.3**
- IB Project in Nashville, **p. 6**
- **LEGISLATIVE**
- New Stimulus Report, **p.10**

New Report Shows Use Of Stimulus Funds In Urban Schools

When President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in February 2009



to stimulate the sagging economy, an unprecedented infusion of federal dollars provided aid to the nation's schools -- with significant funds targeted at urban schools to advance educational reform efforts.

In 40 urban school districts responding to a survey, the stimulus package provided \$7.3 billion that "paid for some 50,000 full-time equivalent jobs and a substantial number of program enhancements, expansions and upgrades for schools."

That's one of many findings in a new report by the Council of the Great City Schools titled *Investing Wisely and Quickly -- Use of ARRA Funds in America's Great City Schools*.

But after the first year of the stimulus package, the nation's school districts will still face economic uncertainties in the 2010-2011 school year.

A commentary about the Council's stimulus report is on page 10, and the report is on its web site at www.cgcs.org.



Students at a Jacksonville, Fla., high school greet parents and community members attending a meeting on the impact of budget constraints.

Urban School Districts Facing Mounting Budget Woes in Uncertain Economy

The Los Angeles Unified School District is cutting the number of days students attend school, San Francisco Unified School District considers canceling summer school, while more than 6,000 teachers in New York City may lose their jobs.

The school districts are implementing these cost-cutting measures as a result of cuts in state education funding and reductions in local property revenues due to the economic downturn.

And these districts are not alone. According to Michael Casserly, executive director of the Council of the Great City Schools, big-city school districts are projected to lose \$4 billion in state and local revenue in the 2010-2011 school year.

This loss of revenue has resulted in urban school systems facing deficits in the millions, leading superintendents and school board members to make difficult budget cuts while trying to preserve essential school reform initiatives that have boosted the academic achievement of so many urban students.

Teacher Layoffs in California

As a result of a decrease in state funding, approximately 2,000 teachers in the Los Angeles school district lost their jobs last year.

Budget Woes continued on page 4

Chicago School Wins Debate Championship

For the third year in a row, a team from Chicago Public Schools has been selected as the top urban debate team in the nation.

Two students from Whitney Young High School--Misael Gonzalez and Kevin Hirn--were the winners of the third annual Chase Urban Debate National Championship. A team from Highland Park High School in St. Paul, Minn., placed second.

Hosted by the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues, the three-day competition was held in New York City and featured the top two teams from each of 19 urban debate leagues across the nation.

In addition to taking home the first-place prize, each of the members of the winning team received a \$2,000 scholarship. Students from the second place team each received \$1,000.

A total of \$10,000 in scholarships were provided by Jamba Juice to the top two debate teams as well as the top three individual speakers.

Sponsored by Chase and the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation, the competition featured 76 of the nation's top urban debaters.

Urban debate leagues currently operate in 24 of the nation's largest cities, including Baltimore, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Seattle and Dallas.

Urban debate teams debate in a style called policy debate, in which teams of two students debate one current event topic. It is considered the most academically rigorous form of debate, and dates back to 1928.

This year, the national debate topic for debaters involved social services for persons living in poverty in the United States. Students debated about agricultural policy, ethical questions in food politics, applying policy solutions to poverty and poor nutrition, and scientific discussions of nutrition implications.

Research has shown that students who participate in urban debate leagues increase their academic achievement, with literacy scores rising by 25 percent, grade-point averages increasing by 10 percent and high school graduation rates reaching nearly 100 percent.



Kevin Hirn, the recipient of the First Place Speaker prize at the Chase Urban Debate National Championship, is congratulated by a representative from Jamba Juice. Hirn was also on the winning debate team.

Other positive benefits include higher attendance rates and improved critical thinking, writing and communication skills.



Council officers

Chair

Carol Johnson
Superintendent, Boston

Chair-elect

Dilafuz Williams
Board Member, Portland, Ore.

Secretary-Treasurer

Beverly Hall
Superintendent, Atlanta

Executive Director

Michael Casserly

Editor

Henry Duvall
hduvall@cgcs.org

Associate Editor

Tonya Harris
tharris@cgcs.org

A newsletter published by the Council of the Great City Schools, representing 66 of the nation's largest urban public school districts.

Albuquerque	Chicago	East Baton Rouge	Los Angeles	Oakland	St. Louis
Anchorage	Christina	Fort Worth	Louisville	Oklahoma City	St. Paul
Atlanta	Cincinnati	Fresno	Memphis	Omaha	Salt Lake City
Austin	Clark Co.	Greensboro	Miami-Dade	Orange Co.	San Diego
Baltimore	Cleveland	Houston	Milwaukee	Palm Beach	San Francisco
Birmingham	Columbus	Indianapolis	Minneapolis	Philadelphia	Seattle
Boston	Dallas	Jackson	Nashville	Pittsburgh	Shreveport
Broward Co.	Dayton	Jacksonville	Newark	Portland	Tampa
Buffalo	Denver	Kansas City	New Orleans	Providence	Toledo
Charleston	Des Moines	Little Rock	New York City	Richmond	Washington DC
Charlotte	Detroit	Long Beach	Norfolk	Rochester	Wichita

All news items should be submitted to:
Urban Educator

Council of the Great City Schools
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 702 • Washington, DC 20004
(202) 393-2427 • (202) 393-2400 (fax)

NYC Chancellor Launches Innovation Zone

In most of the nation's public schools, students attend school for 180 days and receive approximately six hours of instruction a day; teacher compensation is tied to seniority; and students are taught in classrooms with a single teacher.

The New York City Department of Education plans to depart from these traditional educational models by launching the Innovation Zone, (iZone), a group of 81 schools that will offer innovative and cutting-edge approaches to dramatically improve student achievement.

Half of the iZone schools will pilot a "Virtual School" model, which provides new ways to increase student achievement through online learning opportunities. Approximately 40 high schools will utilize online instruction for credit recovery and Advanced Placement courses. And 12 schools will offer up to two-thirds of instruction online in the classroom.

Approximately 35 elementary and middle schools will use "Adaptive Learning Technologies" that provide up-to-date reports on students' progress so that teachers can tailor their math or reading lessons for each student. In addition, nine schools will pilot new ways to schedule time and organize teachers during the school day to increase the learning time for students and increase teacher collaboration.

"Our iZone schools will innovate a model for educating children that has remained largely unchanged for more than a hundred years," said New York Schools Chancellor Joel Klein in a news statement. "We are giving teachers new tools that allow them to customize education more thoughtfully for every child."

The new schools are scheduled to begin opening this fall and will serve approximately 13,000 students.



Superintendent Beverly Hall



Deputy Superintendent Larry Hoskins

Atlanta School Leaders Honored

Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent Beverly Hall recently became the first elementary-secondary school administrator to receive the American Educational Research Association's Distinguished Public Service Award. It recognizes exceptional contributions of elected and appointed public officials who have used education research and statistics in shaping policy, and who have provided sustained support for improving the quality of research and statistics.

Also earning recognition in another awards program recently was Atlanta Public Schools Deputy Superintendent of Operations Larry Hoskins. He received the Council of the Great City Schools' Distinguished Service Award at the organization's Chief Operating Officers Conference for exemplary leadership, innovation, commitment and professionalism in urban education.

Two Urban Educators to Be Inducted Into Teacher Hall of Fame

Erlene Nelson taught kindergarten in the School District of Philadelphia for 50 years and Alesia Slocumb-Bradford has taught math in the District of Columbia for 23 years.

In addition to a love of teaching, the two veteran teachers also have something else in common. They were recently named to the National Teachers Hall of Fame, which honors teachers who have demonstrated commitment and dedication to teaching children.

The Hall of Fame is located in Emporia, Kansas, and honors the accomplishments of public or non-public schoolteachers with at least 20 years of experience in teaching grades pre-kindergarten through 12. Each

year, five teachers from across the nation are selected for induction.

Nelson retired from the Philadelphia school system in 2008 and then became an adjunct professor at the district's Parent University, where she teaches character development.

Slocumb-Bradford, a math teacher at Jefferson Middle School in Washington, D.C., is the recipient of several awards, including a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics.

The two teachers will be inducted in June. Since the first class of teachers was inducted in 1992, 90 teachers from 34 states and the District of Columbia have been added to the Hall of Fame.

Budget Woes *continued from page 4*

trative staff to consider taking a voluntary reduction.

Facing a \$43-million shortfall, New Mexico's Albuquerque Public Schools approved 16 cost-saving measures, including laying off retired workers who've returned to work and reducing the number of instructional coaches by allowing one coach to serve two smaller schools. The district received more than 1,500 e-mails with suggestions and comments on cost-saving measures, with the most popular suggestions including reducing administrative costs and cutting instructional coaches and non-classroom teachers.

Wichita Public Schools is changing bell times for six elementary schools and two early childhood centers next school year. Requiring the schools to start and end their school day an hour later will eliminate the need for 72 buses and save the district nearly \$2.5 million. The change in bell times is part of \$25 million in cuts the district is anticipating it will have to make.

State funding for Atlanta Public Schools has been cut \$68.3 million over the past seven years and the district is taking measures to reduce spending by \$47.4 million. These include increasing class size, two involuntary furlough days for all employees and reducing department budgets by an average of 10 percent next year.

Huge Deficits in NYC, Chicago

The New York City school system is scheduled to receive \$442 million less in state funding next year. As a result, the nation's largest school district is facing a preliminary budget gap of \$1.2 billion.

If state funding is not restored, the district will have to lay off 6,700 teachers.

Chicago Public Schools has slashed approximately \$100 million in central office costs, eliminated 800 positions and will eliminate another 200 positions by the end of the year.

Yet, these actions will not be enough to help the nation's third largest school system close an estimated \$600 million bud-

get deficit. As a result, approximately 2,700 teachers and 300 non-school-based teaching staff may be terminated. In addition, class size will increase to 35 students per class; cuts will be made to early-childhood education, magnet and gifted programs; after-school and summer school programs will be reduced; and charter schools will receive less funding.

At a press conference in February, Chicago Schools CEO Ron Huberman noted that the district's financial situation mirrors that of public agencies all over the country. "Revenues are down, costs are up, and sufficient relief has not been forthcoming," said Huberman. "We have worked hard to live within our means but our options are beginning to narrow, and we may be forced to look for savings in places that will have an impact on students."

Seeking Help from Congress

The dire economic situations facing school districts across the nation have not gone unnoticed by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and congressional leaders.

In the House of Representatives, legislation has been introduced by both education committee chairman George Miller and appropriations committee chairman David Obey.

And in the Senate, education committee chairman Tom Harkin has proposed a \$23-billion school bailout bill that would help school districts avert teacher layoffs and cuts to education programs.

At a recent Senate hearing in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles Schools Superintendent Ramon Cortines urged lawmakers to pass the bill, noting that his district could receive approximately \$250 million and save as many as 3,000 jobs.

"Education-related jobs directly impact our students' futures in ways that can only be partially quantified at this time," said Cortines, leader of the nation's second largest school district. "The loss of instructional days, class offerings, enrichment courses, arts programming and other vital services may negatively affect our students for generations."

Rochester Chief Selected to Join Entrepreneurial Leaders

Jean-Claude Brizard

Jean-Claude Brizard, superintendent of New York's Rochester City School District, was recently selected to join the Entrepreneurial Leaders for Public Education Fellowship Program, sponsored by

the Aspen Institute and NewSchools Venture Fund.

Brizard is one of 24 participants in the program, which is designed to recognize and support exceptional entrepreneurial leaders who are committed to transforming public education.

The program brings individuals with experience in the public, private and non-profit sectors in an effort to foster innovation and improve American public schools.

Over the course of more than two years, fellows will gather in Aspen, Colo., to attend seminars that include discussions about leadership, diversity and important issues in public education and social change.

Participants will also get the opportunity to work together to further develop their own leadership capacity. And once they complete the program, fellows become part of the Aspen Global Leadership Network, which includes 1,000 entrepreneurial leaders from 43 countries.

Launched in 2007, the program each year selects approximately 24 leaders from both rural and urban communities and provides them with the opportunity to sustain and advance their work through cohort-based leadership development.

IB Project Launched In Nashville

The International Baccalaureate recently partnered with the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools to expand access and participation in the academically rigorous IB instructional system among disadvantaged and minority students.

Through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, IB plans to develop curriculum and assessment resources in grades nine and 10 to increase participation and performance of underrepresented students in the IB Diploma Programme in grades 11 and 12.

IB plans to partner with several school districts. Besides Nashville, it has launched the Gates-funded project in two other districts, including another urban public school system -- Florida's Palm Beach County, according to an IB spokeswoman.

"By developing more supports for low-income and minority students, we will be able to assist more IB World Schools in providing open access to our programmes," says IB Americas Director Drew Deutsch in a press release.

The IB pilot project in Nashville will primarily focus on developing mathematics, science, English and foreign language curriculum and assessment resources for ninth- and 10th-grade teachers at two Nashville high schools.

The Nashville district's advanced academics coordinator, Sharon Chaney, notes that the Gates grant to establish the project gives "more students the opportunity to experience and benefit from an IB education within our district, while improving the existing program through additional resources and professional development."

District officials point out that Nashville Metropolitan Public Schools is the first school system in Tennessee to graduate IB Diploma candidates. The school system currently offers the IB Diploma Programme for juniors and seniors at three high schools.

Chicago District Unveils New Standards

First Lady Michelle Obama is spearheading a campaign to fight childhood obesity and Chicago Public Schools is following in her footsteps by offering healthier school breakfasts and lunches.

The nation's third largest school system recently announced new nutritional standards for its school-based meals, in an effort to create a healthier environment for its 417,855 students.

According to district officials, the school system is one of the first in the nation to implement new nutritional standards that will exceed the U.S. Department of Agriculture Gold Standard of the HealthierUS School Challenge guidelines.

The program was established to recognize schools that are creating healthy school environments by promoting good nutrition and physical activity. Schools have the opportunity to become certified as Bronze, Silver, Gold or Gold of Distinction Schools.

The district serves approximately 120,000 breakfasts and 280,000 lunches every day, with an estimated 86 percent of students qualifying for free or reduced price lunch.

The new nutritional standards include various changes:

- Vegetables are offered daily, but the district will now offer a different vegetable each day, increase dark green and orange vegetables and limit starchy vegetables;
- Whole grains will be served every day at lunch and there will be a 25 percent whole grain requirement at breakfast;
- No breakfast items will be offered containing dessert or candy-type ingredients or flavors;
- Only reduced fat salad dressings and mayonnaise will be offered; and
- A fiber requirement of seven grams on average weekly for breakfast, and a minimum of three grams averaged daily at lunch will be implemented.

In addition, the district will increase servings of canned or frozen fruit in natural juices or light syrup, has set a goal of reducing sodium by 5 percent annually, and will give preference to locally grown and processed fruit and vegetables.

The new nutritional standards were developed by an advisory group composed of dietitians, food-service operational experts and community partners who researched best nutritional practices and new ways of thinking about school food.

"We want to engage students and raise their level of awareness about healthy eating and making healthy choices as part of their daily practice," said Chicago Schools Chief Education Officer Barbara Eason-Watkins.

The new nutritional standards will take place in schools beginning in the fall and will not cost the district additional money to implement.





Teachers help students with homework on school bus in neighborhood.

'Homework on Wheels' Helps Students In North Carolina's Guilford County

A school bus is not just for transportation in a neighborhood in High Point, N.C.

A bus full of teachers and interpreters has stopped in the Juanita Hills neighborhood in the North Carolina town to help students with their homework and translate school paperwork in a pilot program called "Homework on Wheels."

The English as a Second Language (ESL) department of Guilford County Schools in Greensboro, N.C., recently operated the six-week pilot program through May 6 to help K-12 students who struggle with homework.

For three days a week, students and parents, including those from outside the neighborhood in the surrounding community, would walk or drive to the bus parked near the Juanita Hills Community Center. Eight teachers, two interpreters and even the bus driver, a certified teacher assistant, worked with students on their homework from 5 to 7 p.m.

"Many times homework is frustrating for students if it covers a topic they just learned that day," says Mayra Hayes, the district's ESL director who conceived the idea for "Homework on Wheels." "It's

frustrating for parents, too, because they may not have an understanding of the subject or may have a language barrier.

"On the bus, parents can see how the teachers work with students and learn the steps so they can help their children at home. That is powerful," Hayes stresses.

When the bus first rolled into the neighborhood, "Homework on Wheels" helped nine students. It grew to 34 students over the next several weeks, helping students from all grade levels, but mostly in grades kindergarten to six.

When classroom teachers were surveyed about students participating in the program, they commented on the improved consistency they see in the students, according to Laurie Hogan, a district spokeswoman. "Several have remarked about their students' enthusiasm and positive attitude about the Homework on Wheels bus and about doing their homework," she explained.

Based on its success, the pilot program, created through an ESL grant, is expected to continue in the fall, and the ESL department is looking ahead to expand the program in the future.

Oklahoma City District To Prepare Teachers For Urban Schools With University

In an effort to prepare future teachers for urban classroom success, Oklahoma City Public Schools recently partnered with the University of Central Oklahoma to create the Urban Teacher Preparation Academy.

Next fall, the academy, which will be housed at the university, will begin preparing its first cohort of candidates with a full teaching experience in an urban school setting.

Selected upper-level education majors at Central Oklahoma will be placed in Oklahoma City elementary, middle and high schools for a yearlong clinical teaching experience, followed by a close mentorship during the first two years of the new teacher's career.

Urban Teacher Preparation Academy Created

The program also includes professional development for the Oklahoma City school system teachers and administrators serving as mentors for Oklahoma Central students.

"This pivotal preparation program, focused solely on the unique needs of an urban school district, will be a win-win for everyone involved; but mostly for the students who will gain teachers who are knowledgeable and committed to their success," says Oklahoma City Public Schools Superintendent Karl Springer.

"We've found a progressive partner in Oklahoma City Public Schools, and together we can positively impact the entire learning community," says Assistant Dean Bill Pink of Oklahoma Central's College of Education and Professional Studies.

Broward District Develops 'Green' Web Site

In an effort to become more environmentally friendly, Florida's Broward County Public Schools in Fort Lauderdale is using solar roof panels on new buildings, implementing energy conservation programs in schools that have reduced energy use by 7 percent, and banned school buses from idling more than five minutes.

These are just a few of the "green" initiatives that are listed on the district's new environmental web site, (browardschools-gogreen.com).

The Environmental Stewardship Web site was created to describe in detail the steps the school system is taking to help the environment and teach students how to "Live Green, Learn Green" for the rest of their lives.

The web site serves as a portal to all things green in the nation's sixth largest school system and represents a culmination of years of research and development.

District officials hope the web site will serve as a template for other school systems that want to promote environmental awareness among students, parents and faculty as well as serve as a model for businesses, industries and governments that could use and tailor the district's environmental programs for their own needs.

"Good environmental stewardship is an obligation for all of us," said Broward school board member Robert Parks, who played a lead role in the development of the web site. "Because it conserves resources and saves money, there are very practical reasons to undertake it in a school district and teach the appropriate lessons to our kids."

The district's environmental initiatives began 15 years ago after Hurricane Wilma uprooted trees and shrubs and the Broward school board voted to replace the destroyed plants with shrubbery and trees native to Florida and capable of surviving hurricane-strength winds.

An Environmental Strategic Plan was soon developed that was implemented districtwide.

Council Fall Conference Registration Begins

Under the banner "Education That Shines," the Council of the Great City Schools will hold its Annual Fall Conference, Oct. 20-24, in Tampa.

The five-day conference will be hosted by the Hillsborough County School District. More than 800 urban school superintendents, board members, senior administrators and college deans of education will convene at the Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina in Tampa to address the issues and challenges facing big-city school systems.



Gwen Ifill

The conference will feature award-winning journalist Gwen Ifill, who is the moderator



Hill Harper

and managing editor of *Washington Week* and senior correspondent for *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* on PBS-TV.

Also, addressing urban educators will be actor and best-selling author Hill Harper.

On Friday, Oct. 22, the conference's pinnacle event, the town hall meeting, will be held. The topic, "Superintendents: Traditional & Non-Traditional," will be discussed by a panel of leading urban educators and others.

To register for the conference, access the Council's web site at <http://www.cgcs.org/conferences/fall.aspx>.

Council of the Great City Schools
54th Annual Fall Conference
October 20-24, 2010

EDUCATION THAT SHINES!

College Board Honors School in Brooklyn For Inspiration

The College Board recently named Medgar Evers College Preparatory School in Brooklyn, N.Y., among three high schools in the nation to receive its 2010 Inspiration Award for improving their academic environments and helping underserved students achieve equitable access to higher education.

Each winning school receives a \$25,000 award, including a Virginia Beach high school and a small Kansas City, Mo., charter school this year.

The College Board Inspiration Awards recognize the nation's most improved high schools. "The 2010 Inspiration Award winners show that school innovation can help close the achievement gap," says College Board President Gaston Caperton. "Through their example, many more students will graduate ready to participate in a competitive global economy."

Medgar Evers is a neighborhood school for students in grades six through 12 in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. It serves a student population that is underserved and economically disadvantaged, but is committed to providing every student with a college-preparatory education.

When a new principal took over the school in 2001, Medgar Evers had a graduation rate of 60 percent. Today, students face academically challenging work, including a requirement to at least complete one AP course in English, mathematics, science and the social sciences.

In 2009, the graduation rate at Medgar Evers was 95 percent. And their students were accepted to more than 100 colleges and universities in the nation.

"Brooklyn, and all of New York City, should be proud of this achievement," says New York City Schools Chancellor Joel Klein in congratulating the school for winning the Inspiration Award.

11th Graders Get Free SAT in Palm Beach

The School District of Palm Beach County, through a partnership with the College Board, recently offered its 11th-grade students the SAT at no cost, and is believed to be the first school district in the nation to offer the college-admission test to a full grade level districtwide on a school day.

With the Florida school district covering the test fee, many students who could otherwise not afford the test or others who would not have considered the possibility of college last month had a chance to expand their postsecondary education.

"This eliminates the economic disadvantage for urban students and is an important step in fulfilling our goal of all students becoming college-ready," says district spokesman Nat Harrington.

The College Board provided every junior with his or her own Official SAT Study Guide, while the Palm Beach school system offered supporting lesson plan guides.

Albuquerque Outpaces State in Graduations

In a new, calculated five-year graduation rate in New Mexico, Albuquerque Public Schools outpaces the state in students who needed more than four years to complete their high school coursework as well as those who completed the traditional four years.

New Mexico school districts now have an official five-year graduation rate, giving credit to students who don't finish high school in four years -- but do finish.

The five-year graduation rate for Albuquerque Public Schools is 68.8 percent compared with 66.2 percent statewide.

The cohort rate measures the group of students who entered ninth grade in the fall of 2004 and were due to graduate four years later in 2008. The four-year graduation rate was 63.2 percent for the Albuquerque school system, above the state average 60.3 percent, according to the New Mexico Public Education Department.

"APS has said for several years that many students need more than four years to complete high school, for a variety of reasons," says Albuquerque Public Schools Superintendent Winston Brooks. "The new figure of 68.8 percent shows proof that kids will persevere and finish in five years, given the opportunity."

Houston Schools Rank Above Some in Suburbia

"Inner-city campuses continue to dominate the top of the Children at Risk/Houston Chronicle annual rankings, despite the superior reputations enjoyed by suburban districts."

That was how an article began in the April 25 edition of the *Houston Chronicle*, headlined "Some city schools beat suburbs."

Every year, Children at Risk, a non-profit group, and Houston's largest newspaper rank and announce the top public schools in the Houston metropolitan area, which includes eight counties.

The Houston Independent School District's DeBakey High School for Health Professions ranked No. 1 overall. Houston public schools also led the rankings in "most improved high schools," "top five middle schools," and "top five elementary schools" in Greater Houston.

"These lists show that we do not have to abandon the Houston Independent School District because there are good schools here," said Robert Sanborn, CEO of Children at Risk in the *Chronicle* article.

The rankings are based on a formula devised in consultation with the newspaper's education reporting team, according to the *Chronicle*.

Schools Desperate for Financial Lifeline for Upcoming School Year: New Council Report Shows 2009 ARRA Funds Rescued Schools This Year

By Jeff Simering, *Director of Legislation*

A new report issued by the Council of the Great City Schools demonstrates in stark detail the critical and beneficial impact that the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) had on large urban districts during the current school year. It also shows with hard numbers that these districts are about to face massive budget shortfalls and large cuts to teachers and support staff in the coming school year.

The report, *Investing Wisely and Quickly--Use of ARRA Funds in America's Great City Schools*, highlights that the stimulus funds supported nearly 8 percent of school district jobs this current year in the 40 urban school systems responding to the Council's surveys. ARRA also provided the wherewithal to expand targeted services for poor students and students with disabilities, and boost district capacity and reforms. But the report makes it clear that over 44,000 jobs are in jeopardy across the Great City Schools this coming school year with the projected \$4 billion budget shortfall that urban school districts are expecting.

The loss of tens of thousands of teachers, assistant principals, paraprofessionals, instructional supervisors, counselors, nurses, and other staff will also result in increased class sizes, less individualized attention, and less support services for students. Instructional materials, equipment acquisition, and teacher professional development will be cut. Maintenance for school buildings and classrooms will be deferred. And for school staff members who have retained their jobs, wage freezes and furloughs are being instituted. In some instances, the numbers of school days on district calendars are being cut as well. In addition, entire academic specialty programs like science centers or magnet programs are being cut; music, art and physical education classes eliminated; full-day kindergarten reduced; adult education curtailed; summer school cutback; and athletic programs terminated in order to close the revenue shortfall from the economic recession.

Despite 40 percent of the urban districts reporting that the ARRA State Fiscal Stabilization Funds were insufficient to backfill all of the cuts in state education funding, the 2009



education stimulus legislation softened the economic impact of the recession on the Great City Schools in the current year. ARRA funds also salvaged nearly 50,000 jobs in 40 urban districts, which translates into an estimated 65,000 jobs saved across all 65 Great City Schools districts. Among the nearly 30,000 jobs saved with State Fiscal Stabilization Funds alone were general education teachers, music and art teachers, resource teachers, media specialists, technology assistants, counselors, social workers, custodians, and school safety officers.

ARRA Title I funds saved some 11,000 jobs while supporting a wide variety of instructional and capacity-building investments, including expanded Title I services, teacher recruiting incentives, extended-time programs, math and science initiatives, high school reforms, dropout prevention and recovery efforts, instructional coaches, professional development, and preschool programs-- to cite but a few.

ARRA Special Education funds saved some 8,800 jobs as well while supporting response-to-intervention (RTI) initiatives, positive behavior supports, special education data systems, assistive technology, literacy programs, transition activities, professional development, and parent training.

The *Investing Wisely and Quickly* report shows that 2009 ARRA education stimulus funds rescued the nation's Great City Schools in the 2009-10 school year. But a financial lifeline is gravely needed for the upcoming school year, as signs of economic recovery have yet to be felt at the local level. Appropriations Chairman David Obey, Education Chairman George Miller, and Senate Education and Education Appropriations Chairman Tom Harkin have introduced similar bills to provide \$23 billion in federal aid for saving education jobs. Despite a contentious congressional atmosphere, passage of an education jobs bill prior to the close of this school year is critical, as layoff notices continue to pile up across the nation's schools.



Miami School Named for Basketball Star and Wife

Former Miami Heat basketball player Alonzo Mourning and his wife Tracy attend the recent dedication ceremony for the new Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High Biscayne Bay Campus in Miami. The school opened in August and was named for the couple for the charitable work they have done in the community and in local schools, including mentoring. "You know, not one blocked shot, rebound or point can compare to the impact that you'll have on generations and generations of individuals here," said Mourning, after he and his wife toured the school in August. "I mean basketball is temporary." The multi-story, state-of-the-art high school serves more than 600 ninth- and 10th-grade students, eventually expanding to 12th grade.

Jacksonville School Wins Top 'Grammy' Award

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in Jacksonville, Fla., was recently selected as the top public high school in the nation for music excellence by the GRAMMY Foundation.



The school was named the 2010 National GRAMMY Signature School, as part of the Foundation's GRAMMY Signature Schools Program. Created in 1998, the program recognizes the nation's top public high schools that are making an outstand-

ing commitment to music education.

This year, 12 schools were selected for the program by a panel of top music educators and professionals.

Of the 12 GRAMMY Signature Schools selected this year, three schools were recognized as the top schools and designated as a "Gold" recipient. Douglas Anderson was selected as the best of the Gold recipients and was named the National GRAMMY Signature School.

Las Vegas International Academy of Performing and Visual Arts was also selected as a "Gold" recipient. Each of the "Gold" recipients will receive a grant of \$5,000 to benefit their music programs.

Grammy Award continued on page 12

Columbus Father, Son Are #1 in Basketball Of U.S. High Schools

In addition to being father and son, Jared Sullinger, a student at Ohio's Columbus Public Schools, and James Sullinger, a basketball coach in Columbus, have something else in common. They are both recipients of the most prestigious national award in basketball.



Jared Sullinger
Photo Credit: Anthony Brown

Jared recently received the 2010 Naismith National High School Boy's Basketball Player of the Year award, presented annually to the top boy's high school player in

the nation. And his father, James, received the 2010 Naismith National Boy's High School Coach of the Year honors, presented annually to the top high school basketball coach in the nation. They were selected by a group of leading basketball journalists and administrators based on performances over the course of the season.

Jared is a 6-foot, 9-inch center who led his basketball team at Northland High School to an undefeated regular season. The senior has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball at The Ohio State University next season. "Jared's body of work during the last four years speaks for itself, including an undefeated and top-ranked senior season," said Northland head coach James Sullinger. "But what really makes me proud is that Jared is a better person than he is a basketball player."

James Sullinger has coached the boy's basketball team at Northland High School for 10 seasons and has a winning record, leading the team to a No. 1 ranking in *USA Today*.



Council of the Great City Schools
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 702
Washington DC 20004

PRESORT
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MERRIFIELD, VA
PERMIT NO. 2333

Top Principal Of Magnet Schools Is in Baton Rouge



Nanette McCann

Magnet Schools of America recently named Baton Rouge Magnet High School Principal Nanette McCann 2010 Magnet Principal of the Year.

The Louisiana principal was one of eight finalists nationwide who represented elementary and secondary schools. She was recognized as “an outstanding leader having succeeded in providing innovative programs that promote equity, diversity and academic excellence for students in magnet schools.”

McCann received a plaque at the Magnet Schools of America conference in

Grammy Award *continued from page 11*

Those two schools were not the only big-city schools to be receive recognition from the GRAMMY Foundation.

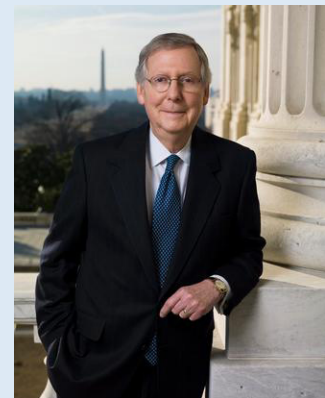
Manual Arts High School and Taft High School in Los Angeles; Roosevelt High School in Seattle; and Newark High School in Delaware’s Christina School District were recipients of the GRAMMY Signature Schools Enterprise Award. The award recognizes efforts made by schools that are economically underserved and awards them with a grant of \$5,000 each.

Salt Lake City Teacher Wins Excellence Award

Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh, a teacher in Salt Lake City, was the winner of the top teaching award recently presented by the NEA Foundation.

The second-grade teacher beat five other finalists to receive the \$25,000 NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence. The award is presented annually to recognize, reward and promote excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession.

Great City Grads



Mitch McConnell

U.S. Senate Republican Leader

1960 graduate

duPont Manual High School

Jefferson County Public Schools in
Louisville, Ky.