September 21, 2010

EDUCATION JOBS FUND
Frequently Asked Questions
Addendum

1. **Are cooperatives eligible to receive direct payment of ED Jobs funds from the state?**

   Yes, cooperatives that receive direct payment of state aids under Minnesota's "primary elementary and secondary education funding formulae" are eligible to receive Ed Jobs funds. The Ed Jobs funds are allocated among Local Education Agencies (LEAs), including cooperatives, in proportion to each LEA's FY 2011 aid entitlements under the state's general education, special education (including tuition billing adjustments), and excess cost aid formulas.

2. **If state general education aid for students served at a cooperative is paid to a school district serving as fiscal agent for the cooperative, can the Ed Jobs payments be redirected to the cooperative?**

   No, the state must pay the Ed Jobs funds to the LEA that receives the state general education, special education and excess cost aid. However, an LEA receiving the funds may choose to contract with a cooperative to provide educational and related services, and may use may use Ed Jobs funds to pay that portion of the contract associated with the salaries and benefits of cooperative employees providing the services.

3. **Can Ed Job funds be used to pay salaries and benefits of special education staff?**

   Yes, Ed Jobs funds can be used to pay salaries and benefits for site-level special education staff, but LEAs should exercise caution in doing so, because this may result in a loss of state or federal special education aid. An LEA cannot claim an expenditure for Ed Jobs aid that is also claimed for state or federal special education aid. That would be "double dipping". For example, an LEA cannot use Ed Jobs funds to cover the unfunded 32% of salaries claimed for state special education aid. Ed Jobs funds can be used to cover benefits for state-funded special education staff, since these benefits are not eligible for state aid.

4. **May a charter school that is an LEA use Ed Jobs funds to pay the compensation and benefits of individuals who provide school-level services but are not employees of the charter school or another LEA?**

   No. A charter school that is an LEA may not use Ed Jobs funds to pay for contractual school-level services provided by individuals who are not employees of the charter school or another LEA. Thus, a charter school LEA may not use Ed Jobs funds to pay for the compensation and benefits of employees of a charter management organization or an educational management organization who provide school-level educational and related services in the charter school.

5. **If a charter school that is an LEA does not have any employees, how may it use its allocation of Ed Jobs funds?**

   If a charter school that is an LEA does not have any employees who provide school-level educational and related services, it may use the funds to hire employees to provide these services. It may also pay for the compensation and benefits of an employee of another LEA who provides such services to the charter school under a contract with the other LEA.

6. **Has the U.S. Department of Education Issued Guidance regarding the Program?** Yes, a document entitled *Initial Guidance for States on the Education Jobs Fund Program* is available on the U.S. Department of Education web site at http://www2.ed.gov/programs/educationjobsfund/governors-ed-jobs-guidance-final-8-13-10.doc. A document entitled *Guidance on the Applicability of the Education Jobs Fund to Charter Schools*, and a copy of the enacted legislation are also available on U.S. Department of Education web site at http://www2.ed.gov/programs/educationjobsfund/legislation.html. As updated information becomes available from U.S. DOE, it will be posted to the U.S. DOE website at: http://www2.ed.gov/programs/educationjobsfund/index.html**.**

7. **Who should I contact at MDE for further information?**

   Funding allocations and allowable uses of revenue
   - Tom Melcher tom.melcher@state.mn.us or (651) 582-8828

   UFARS restricted grid
   - Karen Dykoski karen.dykoski@state.mn.us or (651) 582-8766

   Applications, budgets, payments and reporting
   - Lisa Mueller lisa.mueller@state.mn.us or (651) 582-8225