



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

March 5, 2009

Mr. Joe McTighe
Executive Director
Council for American Private Education
13017 Wisteria Drive, #457
Germantown, MD 20874

Dear Mr. McTighe:

Thank you for your January 29, 2009, letter regarding the House and Senate versions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), which President Obama signed into law on February 17, 2009. In your letter, you expressed concerns regarding the equitable participation of private school students and teachers in programs requiring their participation, and about the exclusion of private schools from funds for school modernization and renovation.

The enacted ARRA contains a number of provisions that will positively impact private school students and teachers. The law includes \$10 billion for formula grants to local educational agencies under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA); \$11.7 billion in grants under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and \$650 million for the Enhancing Education through Technology program under Title II, Part D of the ESEA. These programs are governed by the equitable services provisions of the ESEA and IDEA and require the equitable participation of eligible private school students and, in some programs, their teachers.

In the weeks ahead, the Department will be providing further information about the ARRA and its impact on the education community.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your dedication to meeting the needs of America's private school students and teachers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arne Duncan".

Arne Duncan