
Overview



OVERVIEW

The United States Department of Education's *Annual Performance Report* (APR) for fiscal year (FY) 2009 provides detailed information on how the outcomes of the strategic performance measures identified in its *FY 2007–2012 Strategic Plan* and updated in the *Fiscal Year 2008 Performance and Accountability Report* were met. It also details areas in need of improvement that the Department must address for those measures not meeting or exceeding targeted expectations.

This year, the Department is reporting on its *FY 2007–2012 Strategic Plan*. A new strategic plan for FY 2010–2015 is under development. The Department will assess all measures that appear in this report and decide which will be reported in support of the FY 2010–2015 plan, which will be revised and which will need to be discontinued and replaced. Retained, revised and discontinued measures will appear in the *FY 2010 Annual Performance Report* during the transition between plans.

In FY 2009, the Department voluntarily participated in the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) Pilot Program for Alternative Approaches to Performance and Accountability Reporting in an effort to present more streamlined information to the public, Congress and the President. The *Annual Performance Report* (APR) is required under the OMB Pilot Program. The initial report, the *Agency Financial Report*, released in November 2009, provided detailed information on the Department's financial performance and stewardship over its financial resources in accordance with the *Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA)*. For a copy of the full report, go to <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/2009report/agency-financial-report.pdf>.

The Secretary has outlined achievements, future initiatives and challenges for the Department in FY 2009 and certified that the Department's performance data are fundamentally complete and reliable in his letter published in the *Agency Financial Report*. For more information, go to <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/2009report/1-message.pdf>.

This document is tied to the Congressional Budget Justification for FY 2011 and the budget process for the upcoming year. For more information, go to <http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/performance.html>.

Following is a brief overview of selected items contained in the *FY 2009 Agency Financial Report* with Web links specific to the sections discussed.

Linking Taxpayer Dollars to Performance Results

In this economy, the President has requested that federal agencies become more fiscally responsible. The Department strives to link taxpayer dollars to performance results, to ensure accountability for the expenditure of its grant and contract dollars and has undertaken significant measures to implement administrative cost savings within the agency. By including detailed performance information with the President's Budget, the Department will link its performance results to its budget requests. For more information, please go to <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/2009report/2a-mda-linking.pdf>.

Data Validity

The Department strives to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data it uses to support its budget requests. The Department has established procedures for the validation and verification of the data that it uses. To access the Department's guidance to individual program offices and the worksheet for ensuring data accuracy, please go to <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/2009report/2b-mda-validate.pdf>.

Accomplishments and Initiatives for FY 2009

During FY 2009, the Department was tasked with the enormous responsibility of allocating significant funding by the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)*. The *Recovery Act* invests heavily in education with a total of \$98.2 billion in appropriations to the Department to strengthen reform efforts in elementary, secondary and higher education. For more information on Department programs receiving supplemental *Recovery Act* funding, success stories about school districts and states receiving *Recovery Act* funding and information about the Department's accomplishments for FY 2009 and ongoing initiatives—including its efforts to improve delivery services for Federal Student Aid—please go to <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/2009report/2c-mda-accomplishments.pdf>.

Our Benefit to the Public

Each one of the four strategic goals identified in the Department's *FY 2007–2012 Strategic Plan* was developed to address needs in the educational arena. For more information on how each goal is geared toward specific areas that address the needs of the public the Department serves and the resources and strategies that it uses to achieve its performance goals and objectives, please go to <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/2009report/2e-mda-performance.pdf>.

Management Challenges

The Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) identified three significant challenges for the Department for FY 2010. These challenges were implementing the *Recovery Act*, overseeing and monitoring the federal student financial assistance programs and managing information security. The Department is making significant progress toward meeting these challenges. To read more about the Department's management challenges and how it is working to meet them, please go to <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/2009report/2g-mda-challenges.pdf>.

Financial Highlights and Detailed Financial Information for FY 2009

For the eighth consecutive year, the Department achieved an unqualified audit opinion on its annual financial statements. Since 2003, the independent auditors have identified no material weaknesses in the Department's internal control over financial reporting. To read the full report of the independent auditors, please go to <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/2009report/4-auditors.pdf>.

For an overview and analysis of the Department's sources of funds and financial position, including the balance sheet and statement of net cost, please go to <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/2009report/2f-mda-highlights.pdf>.

To review the Department's financial summary and complete financial statements—including required supplementary stewardship information and notes to the principal financial statements for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2009, and September 30, 2008—please go to <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/2009report/3-financial-details.pdf>.

For information on the *Improper Payments Information Act* reporting details, which includes a risk assessment of certain programs, please go to <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/2009report/5a-improper-payments.pdf>.