



State of Wisconsin
Jim Doyle, Governor

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent



NEWS RELEASE

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**Governor Doyle, State Superintendent Burmaster
Announce \$366 Million for Wisconsin Schools**

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle and State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster today announced \$366 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for Wisconsin school districts which will be used for special education and for schools with a high percentage of low-income students. The governor and state superintendent made the announcement at Thoreau Elementary School in Madison. Madison schools will receive about \$11.7 million of the allocation.

“During this tough time it is incredibly important we remain focused on our most basic principles, especially education,” Governor Doyle said. “Without this critical funding from the ARRA, we would have been looking at cutting school funding and laying off teachers. Instead we are investing in what is most important to our state: education. We cannot ask a second grader to come back and complete their studies five years from now when the economy has turned around. The education we provide now will be the strength of our state and nation for decades to come.”

“When we invest in education, we not only boost the economy right now, but in the future as well,” Burmaster said. “Today’s students will be tomorrow’s workforce, drivers of our future economic growth. We need to leverage the use of these funds for innovative programs that focus on student achievement, and that can be maintained in the future. Along with protecting jobs, there is no more urgent goal than closing achievement gaps and ensuring a quality education for all students.”

The \$366 million in ARRA funding will flow through two existing programs: the Individuals with

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Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B, which supports special education and early academic and behavioral interventions; and Title I, Part A, which supports educational services for economically disadvantaged students and outreach to parents. The state's total ARRA allocation through IDEA, Part B, is \$218 million. Title I, Part A, allotments in Wisconsin total \$148 million.

The statewide and local funding amounts were determined using formulas and procedures prescribed by ARRA and other federal laws. School districts have through the 2010-11 school year to spend their funds.

IDEA has historically been underfunded at the federal level, with the federal government never fulfilling its statutory commitment to 40 percent of expenses incurred by local school districts. Currently, federal funding accounts for an 18 percent share of special education costs; estimates suggest ARRA funding combined with an increase in the regular appropriation will bring the federal share of support to approximately 29 percent. The Department of Public Instruction will advocate for maintaining this level of funding in the future.

The Governor and Superintendent Burmaster are working together to ensure these funds are wisely spent by schools to bolster the economy and support student achievement. The Department of Public Instruction is providing districts with a set of suggested strategies for using this increased federal funding. The strategies will help districts make wise investments in educational programs and avoid potential funding cliffs after the expiration of the ARRA funding in two years. The DPI is also providing a series of webinars and other technical assistance to districts and Cooperative Education Service Agencies (CESAs) to help them work with these funding streams.

The ARRA also provides competitive grants for teacher incentive funding, teacher quality enhancement, state-wide longitudinal data system development, school lunch equipment purchases, and enhancing education through technology grants.

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NOTES: This news release is available electronically at <http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/prmenu.html>. Local funding allocations for IDEA, Part B, and Title I, Part A, are viewable at <http://dpi.wi.gov/recovery/xls/titleone-idea.xls> (These spreadsheets also include preliminary estimates for the regular payment amounts, separate from ARRA funds, which will be made through these federal programs in federal fiscal year 2009.). More information about the impact of the ARRA on Wisconsin schools and libraries can be found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/recovery>.