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# Austin research firm: Midland County schools to receive nearly \$9 million

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**'The stimulus bill wheels are turning in D.C. and in Texas. Officials throughout the state are just waiting for guidelines about how to access the funding and how it can be spent.'**

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Out of the approximately \$4 billion allocated for education and public schools, Midland County school districts are set to get \$8,897,000 over two years, according to Strategic Partnerships Inc., an Austin-based research and procurement consulting firm tracking funding flows into Texas.

"The stimulus bill wheels are turning in D.C. and in Texas. Officials throughout the state are just waiting for guidelines about how to access the funding and how it can be spent," said Mary Scott Nabers, president and CEO of Strategic Partnerships Inc.

Midland ISD had been expecting \$15 million over two years. This would have include funds for Title I campuses - high-poverty schools, special education and construction. According to a news release issued Friday by Strategic Partnerships, MISD can expect \$8,505,000 and Greenwood ISD, \$392,000.

J. Lyn Carl, chief of staff of Strategic Partnerships, said the figures are based on formula funding set in state statute. "They are estimates of the U.S. House research organization. This is money they (school districts) know they're going to get. There are other funds that may be available, but some of it may be in different resources," Carl said.

MISD Superintendent Sylvester Perez said his understanding is new construction was taken out of the stimulus bill, but some renovations will still be allowed. He said there are hardware and software technology issues the district would like to address with the funds. And he would like to see any additional dollars go to provide smaller class sizes or additional support for at-risk or special needs students.

"We haven't received any kind of guidelines from TEA (the Texas Education Agency). We look forward to getting some definitive answers and more direction from them," said Perez, who was attending an American Association of School Administrators conference in California on Friday. "The majority of superintendents I've talked to would like to see the money come directly to school districts and not go through any of the state agencies.

"With that said, we just wait with anxious anticipation to get guidance from our Texas Education Agency."

As with other funding sectors in the bill, such as transportation infrastructure, technology, homeland security and energy

programs, the funds will result in more work opportunities for Texans and hundreds of contracting opportunities for vendors and service providers.

"Those interested in selling to government -- whether to school districts, cities, counties or state agencies -- should get involved immediately," Strategic Partnerships President and CEO Mary Scott Nabers said in the release.

Once the money is released, a federal Web site, [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov)

<<http://www.recovery.gov/>> will allow citizens to see how it is spent.

For a statewide look at all school districts in Texas, click on [www.spartnerships.com](http://www.spartnerships.com)

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