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## **Bell schools could receive \$18 million**

Published February 21, 2009 An estimated \$18.1 million of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act could be headed to Bell County schools, according to an Austin consulting firm that tracks stimulus funding in Texas.

Strategic Partnerships Inc., a research and procurement consulting firm, reports Texas will receive about \$4 billion for education and public schools.

"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.

Temple Independent School District officials said they have not received official notification of how much the district will receive and there are "a lot of numbers floating around out there," said Regina Baird, TISD spokeswoman.

The Texas Education Agency has not released anything officially from the state as far as individual district information, according to TEA spokesperson DeEtta Culbertson. "We're still waiting for the feds."

Some of the money is allocated by formula and other funds will come down to local school districts in the form of grants, according to a press release from Strategic Partnerships. School districts are expected to spend a large amount on technology, equipment, energy enhancement and construction.

The president's \$787 billion stimulus plan consists of three broad categories - \$280.8 billion in tax cuts, \$308.5 billion in discretionary spending and \$198 billion in direct spending, according to The .

As with other funding sectors in the bill, the funds are expected to result in 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," Nabers said.

Strategic Partnerships Inc., founded in 1994, works in the area of government procurement.

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