

Brenham Banner-Press

Serving Brenham, Washington County Since 1866

Study: Schools in county could receive extra \$\$ from economic stimulus package

Print Page

A federal economic stimulus bill could mean more money for the Brenham and Burton school districts, according to a consulting firm analysis of the mammoth package.

Public school districts in Washington County could have an additional \$3,043,700 over a two-year period to spend, said Strategic Partnerships Inc., (SPI) an Austin-based research and procurement consulting firm.

The totals quoted are part of the \$825 billion economic stimulus package currently being considered by the U.S. Congress.

The House Appropriations Committee last week reported its economic stimulus bill out of committee and the bill will now go to the House floor for debate.

According to the study, the Brenham district could receive \$2,817,500 over a two-year period. Burton could receive \$226,200.

“This is good news for schools, good news for the economy and good news for companies that sell to government,” said Mary Scott Nabers, president and CEO of SPI.

“Not only will the federal economic stimulus funding provide Texas schools with some much-needed additional funding for facilities, programs and technology, but it will also open up additional contracting opportunities for local businesses to sell their goods and services to school districts — providing a much-needed boost to local economies.”

The funding is aimed at improving public school classrooms, laboratories and libraries for students across the nation and is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan aimed at providing increased educational opportunities for school students, creating jobs and moving the nation’s economy forward.

Toward that goal, an estimated \$41 billion in funds could be pushed to local school districts nationwide. That includes \$13 billion each for both Title I and IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) programs, both of which are based on formula funding and address high poverty schools and special needs students respectively.

Another \$14 billion is estimated to be allocated for school modernization and repairs

and an estimated \$1 billion could be allocated for education technology.

“Although these figures are not yet firm,” said Nabers, “President Obama has said he intends to move swiftly on the economic stimulus package, as every day it is delayed, thousands of Americans lose their jobs.

“These millions of dollars estimated to be headed to local school districts in Texas will not only supplement school coffers, but also provide contracting opportunities that can put local workers back to work.”

Nabers served on the Texas Employment Commission and Texas Railroad Commission before joining SPI.

Copyright © 2009 The Brenham Banner-Press
<http://www.brenhambanner.com>