

Go



75°F
AccuWeather.com

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH HOME FINANCE HEALTH AUTO REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIEDS

March 18, 2009 Search [Archives](#):

Schools will receive \$3.23 million windfall Some funds based on competitive formula; others on grants BY GLORIA JENNINGS

Cherokee County schools are expected to receive \$3.23 million of the \$4 billion stimulus bill package for Texas education and public schools.

Officials are waiting for guidelines about accessing the funding and how it can be spent, said Mary Scott Nabers, president and CEO of Strategic Partnerships Inc.

Strategic Partnerships Inc. is an Austinbased research and procurement consulting firm that is tracking the funding flows into Texas.

Some of the money is allocated by formula and other funds will come down to local school districts in the form of grants. School districts receiving money to be directed to special programs are expected to spend a large amount for technology, equipment, energy enhancement and construction.

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," said Ms. Nabers.

Throughout the country, government entities are watching to see how the funding will flow and who will have oversight.

Once the money is released, a federal Web site, www.recovery.gov, will allow citizens to see how it is spent.

County school districts still do not know how they will be allowed to spend the funds.

Most county school districts think they will receive their funding in April.

Alto ISD is expected to receive \$340,000; Jacksonville ISD, \$1,764,000; New Summerfield, \$243,000; Rusk ISD, \$810,000; and Wells ISD, \$105,000.

Dr. Ray DeSpain, Alto ISD superintendent said, "The most recent reports reveal that we will receive money from two funds, \$153,000 in Title IA funds and \$151,000 in Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) funds.

Special education programs will be administered through IDEA funds.

"The title funds will go to the poor districts for supplemental programs including tutorials, teaching materials and anything to supplement educational programs."

Dr. DeSpain said, "We don't know what we can spend on salaries and transportation.

Rusk ISD will receive \$810,000, of which \$381,000 will be allocated as Title IA funds and the remainder as special education funds.

Rusk ISD superintendent Dr. Jim Largent said, "RISD is certainly interested in any stimulus money that may benefit our staff and students. We have many needs and this money could be spent in areas that would benefit a lot of children. My main concern at this time is what 'strings' are going to be tied to the money.

Jacksonville ISD is expected to receive \$1,764,000 total funding with \$755,000 of that being Title IA funds. This is the largest allocation for Cherokee County. Lindy Finley, assistant superintendent for finance, was out-of-town and not available for comments.

Wells ISD Superintendent Dale Morton said, "We don't know the specifics, but hope we will be able to get this information in the next couple of weeks.

"We look forward to receiving these funds and putting them to use in our district."

Wells will receive \$105,000, with \$43,000 of that being Title IA funding.

New Summerfield will receive \$243,000, with \$144,000 that amount in Title IA funds.