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Stimulus bill sends $4 billion to schools in Texas

GREGG COUNTY SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE $8,861,000

AUSTIN — "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., an Austin-based research and procurement consulting firm that is tracking the funding flows into Texas.

Approximately $4 billion for education and public schools will be headed to Texas, with an estimated $8,861,000 of that amount going to schools in Gregg County, the company said. The firm's estimates differ slightly from those of The Associated Press.

According to a Strategic Partnerships press release, Kilgore ISD will receive $1,103,000 and Longview ISD is set to receive $4,319,000. Pine Tree is supposed to receive $1,508,000. Other Gregg County districts on the list and the amounts they are alleged to receive are: Gladewater, $804,000; Sabine, $298,000; Spring Hill, 460,000; and White Oak, $369,000.

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, according to Nabers.

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, Nabers said.

"Those interested in selling to government — whether to school districts, cities, counties or state agencies — should get involved immediately," Nabers said.

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.

For a statewide look at all school districts in Texas, visit www.spartnerships.com.

Strategic Partnerships, Inc., (www.spartnerships.com) was founded in 1994 in Austin. Its staff of consultants, researchers and budget analysts are all former government executives who work in the area of government procurement.