

HILL COUNTRY NEWS

LISD could get \$5.4 million from stimulus package

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by Charles Wood, Hill Country News

The \$835 billion stimulus package making its way through Congress could turn out to be a major windfall for Leander ISD. The district could receive more than \$5 million over a two-year period, according to an Austin-based research firm.

Strategic Partnerships, Inc., estimates that LISD will get \$5,428,700 if the stimulus bill goes through as expected. School districts throughout Williamson County could receive a total of \$27,292,500 in funding.

Though the funds aren't guaranteed at this point, "the formula is not likely to change significantly since the bill is on such a fast track," said Strategic Partnerships President and CEO Mary Scott Nabers.

The Federal House Appropriations Committee reported its economic stimulus bill out of committee on Wednesday Jan. 21 and sent it to the House floor for debate. Nabers said the funds could be flowing to school districts within three weeks.

"We're being told the bill will be on the president's desk for a signature in the second week of February," said Nabers. "He has said he won't hold it up."

LISD spokesman Dick Ellis said, "In general, the federal grant money will help us meet our targets for No Child Left Behind."

The funds are part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan, which is designed to increase educational opportunities and create jobs. An estimated \$41 billion could be allocated to school districts across the nation, including \$13 billion for Title I and IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) programs, programs that are aimed at helping high poverty schools and special needs students.

In addition, Strategic Partnerships estimates \$14 billion will be allocated for school modernization and repairs and \$1 billion will go toward education technology.

"Money will most likely go to government contractors, which will stimulate the economy and drive job creation," said Nabers.

Other Williamson County school districts that should receive funding from the stimulus package include:

Coupland ISD - \$55,800

Florence ISD - \$449,500

Georgetown ISD - \$3,815,100

Granger ISD - \$335,500

Hutto ISD - \$400,000

Jarrell ISD - \$338,900

Liberty Hill ISD - \$785,000

Round Rock ISD - \$12,897,100

Taylor ISD - \$2,566,900

Thrall ISD - \$220,000

For a statewide look at estimated funding for all school districts in Texas, please visit:
<http://www.spartnerships.com/budgets/Texas2009Stimulus.xls>

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