



Tom Green schools may get \$12.5M from feds

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If the San Angelo Independent School district gets any of the estimated grant funding in a new proposed stimulus package it will be good news, the district's superintendent said.

The Congressional Research Service this week released estimates of educational funding each school district could receive from certain aspects of the proposed American Recovery and Reinvestment bill.

Tom Green County schools could get an estimated \$12.5 million in grants under a proposed economic stimulus package being discussed in Washington, according to the Congressional Research Service. Of that, \$10.9 million could be earmarked for the San Angelo district, although district officials do not yet have details on that.

"A lot of people are saying if the state legislature doesn't give us some help, then many school districts are looking at ways to make deep cuts," said Superintendent Carol Ann Bonds. "If we got anything, it could mean SAISD would not have to make cuts this year. And it would give the Texas legislature a little bit of breathing room. I would hope and pray we get some of this."

The numbers are estimates only based on available and current data and might not reflect exact allocations each school district would receive, according to the Committee on Education and Labor web site.

If approved, the money would be spread out over two years.

Jeff Bright, assistant superintendent with the San Angelo district, said there are several unanswered questions with the early grant estimates. Those questions are whether it's a competitive process where district have to apply for the money, are there any matching requirements from the district, and whether the Title I and other funds flow through the state for two years and then go away.

The Congressional Research Service provides non-partisan assessments of legislative options for addressing the public policy problems facing the nation, according to its Web site.

The proposed bill would provide vital aid to children, students and workers, create

jobs, and get the economy moving forward again, U.S. Rep. George Miller (D-CA), the chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, said in a news release this month.

"With our economy worsening by the day, bold and strategic investments are needed to jump-start our economy and drive long-term growth and competitiveness," Miller said in the release. "This remarkable effort will get Americans back to work quickly, strengthen educational opportunities for our children, and fuel innovation."

Mary Scott Nabers, president and CEO of Strategic Partnerships, an Austin-based group that also released the numbers Friday said the proposed package would be good for schools, teachers and communities.

"It would also mean some jobs," Nabers said. "The school district will have money to spend on technology upgrades, and normally those awards go locally."

The totals quoted are part of the \$825 billion economic stimulus package being considered by Congress, according to Strategic Partnerships. The House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday reported its economic stimulus bill out of committee, and the bill will now go to the House floor for debate, according to the news release.

According to the release, the spending breaks down as follows:

n Christoval Independent School District - \$154,000

n Grape Creek Independent School District - \$660,900

n San Angelo Independent School District - \$10,946,800

n Veribest Independent School District - \$143,700

n Wall Independent School District - \$462,900

n Water Valley Independent School District - \$175,900

Of San Angelo's portion about \$4.2 million would go towards construction.

"The intent is to put people back to work," Bonds said. "If SAISD got some of this money, the district would certainly adhere to that."

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 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.

On the net

The entire list can be seen at <http://edlabor.house.gov/selected-allocations-for-school-districts-under-the-american-recovery-and-reinvestment-bill/index.shtml>



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