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Economic stimulus package could bring millions to Tomball, Magnolia public schools

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The Tomball Independent School District could receive more than \$3.4 million as part of the \$825 billion economic stimulus package currently being considered by the U.S. Congress.

The money, part of \$646.4 million, would be paid out to Harris County public schools over a two year period, according to Austin-based research firm Strategic Partnerships Inc.

Last week, House Appropriations Committee reported the economic stimulus bill out of committee and the bill was on its way to the House floor for debate.

This is good news for schools, the economy and for companies that sell to government, said Mary Scott Nabers, president and chief executive officer of Strategic Partnerships.

"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," she said.

According to Strategic Partnerships, 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, explained Strategic Partnerships' CEO, an estimated \$41 billion in funds could be pushed to school districts nationwide. That includes \$13 billion each for both Title I and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act programs. Both programs are based on formula funding and address high poverty schools and special needs students respectively.

According to the Austin research firm, an estimated additional \$14 billion may be allocated for school modernization and repairs. An estimated \$1 billion could be allocated for education technology.

"All those these figures are not yet firm," Nabers said, "President (Barac) 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 handed 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."

The funding in the proposed economic recover package could be beneficial to the Tomball school district, said Staci Stanfield, Director of Communications.

"It is approved, we wold look at the funding source to determine how that

money could be spent," she said.

Nearby in Montgomery County, Magnolia Independent School District could receive \$3.8 million over a two year period through the stimulus program.

Breaking It Down

A breakdown of how much it is estimated that Harris County public schools will receive over two years from the House version of the Economic Recovery Package follows:

Aldine ISD - \$56.3 million, Alief ISD - \$48.2 million, Channelview ISD - \$4.8 million, Crosby ISD \$2.2 million, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD - \$36.3 million, Deer Park ISD - \$5.3 million, Goose Creek ISD - \$14.01 million, Houston ISD - \$298.3 million, Huffman ISD, \$1.06 million, Humble ISD - \$10.9 million, Katy ISD - \$16.2 million, Klein ISD - \$18.6 million, La Porte ISD - \$3.4 million, North Forest ISD - \$19.6 million, Pasadena ISD - \$4.3 million, Sheldon ISD - \$3.7 million, Spring Branch ISD - \$26.5 million, Tomball ISD - \$3.4 million.

For a statewide look at estimated funding for all school district sin Texas, visit www.spartnerships.com/budgets/Texas2009Stimulus.xls.

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