

News Release

Education Information Services ■ 125 South Webster Street ■ P.O. Box 7841 ■ Madison, WI 53707-7841 ■ (608) 266-3559

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI-NR 2009-09

Monday, August 3, 2009

Contact: Patrick Gasper, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

Sparsity aid supports 115 rural districts

MADISON — Rural school districts will share \$3.5 million in sparsity aid from the state to help pay the costs of educating students who live in less populated, lower-income areas of Wisconsin.

“Sparsity aid was designed to help small, rural districts provide educational services for their students,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers.

The 115 districts receiving sparsity aid this year educate 50,974 students. To be eligible for aid, each district must enroll fewer than 725 students, have less than 10 students per square mile of district territory, and have more than 20 percent of the district’s students qualified for free or reduced-price school meals based on family income.

Evers noted that rural Wisconsin has many qualities that make it a good place for raising families and educating children. “However, some characteristics that make small rural communities appealing also challenge school districts’ ability to provide a quality education,” he said. The State Superintendent’s Rural Advisory Council, which Evers chaired since it was formed in 2004, identified the lack of economies of scale, declining enrollment, rapidly rising property values, low median income, higher transportation costs, and large geographic boundaries as common challenges facing rural school districts.

The rural advisory council worked with legislators and former State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster to create the sparsity aid program as part of the 2007-09 budget. Sparsity aid was first paid to districts last fall. The 2009-11 state budget cut the allocation for this school year by \$127,500 (3.5 percent) to close budget deficits. The new budget also set a uniform reimbursement rate of \$300 per student. For the current school year, districts reported \$15.3 million in sparsity aid eligibility. Because demand far exceeds funding, the Department of Public Instruction will prorate aid at 23 percent for each enrolled student when it makes sparsity aid payments in September. For the 2010-11 school year, \$14,948,100 in state funds will be available for sparsity aid.

“In these crushing economic times, it speaks well that Governor Jim Doyle and legislators didn’t abandon this new aid program, and they more than tripled the allocation for next year to fully fund sparsity aid,” Evers said.

###

NOTES: A list of school districts receiving sparsity aid follows. The aid, as established in Wis. Stat. sec. 115.436, will be paid the third Monday in September. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2009_09.pdf.

2009-10 Sparsity Aid to Wisconsin Public School Districts

Prorated Aid Amount Based on 2008-09 Data

Algoma, \$43,124	Goodman-Armstrong, \$11,868	Potosi, \$27,185
Alma, \$18,629	Granton Area, \$19,319	Prairie Farm, \$22,700
Alma Center, \$41,192	Greenwood, \$30,497	Prentice, \$32,843
Almond-Bancroft, \$33,878	Gresham, \$21,458	Princeton, \$25,805
Argyle, \$23,666	Herman #22, \$6,348	Randolph, \$34,085
Athens, \$36,983	Hillsboro, \$38,363	Rib Lake, \$33,809
Augusta, \$45,332	Hurley, \$45,125	Rio Community, \$35,327
Bangor, \$43,952	Hustisford, \$30,290	River Ridge, \$38,018
Bayfield, \$29,324	Independence, \$24,770	Riverdale, \$49,195
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine, \$17,939	Ithaca, \$22,286	Rosholt, \$44,021
Belmont Community, \$22,079	Juda, \$19,871	Royall, \$41,813
Benton, \$17,732	Kickapoo Area, \$30,290	Rubicon J6, \$7,728
Big Foot UHS, \$37,811	La Farge, \$17,249	Seneca, \$18,422
Birchwood, \$19,940	Lac du Flambeau #1, \$31,946	Sevastopol, \$42,089
Black Hawk, \$30,083	Lake Holcombe, \$27,047	Shell Lake, \$41,123
Blair-Taylor, \$46,781	Laona, \$16,076	Shullsburg, \$25,805
Bowler, \$31,463	Lena, \$30,152	Siren, \$34,430
Bruce, \$37,949	Linn J4, \$7,935	Solon Springs, \$22,424
Butternut, \$12,489	Linn J6, \$6,900	South Shore, \$13,524
Cambria-Friesland, \$31,118	Loyal, \$39,743	Southwestern Wisconsin, \$39,536
Cashton, \$39,467	Luck, \$36,983	Suring, \$35,258
Cassville, \$18,008	Marion, \$37,811	Thorp, \$40,709
Clayton, \$26,219	Mellen, \$19,664	Three Lakes, \$39,122
Clear Lake, \$44,711	Mercer, \$11,109	Tigerton, \$22,976
Cochrane-Fountain City, \$44,780	Minocqua J1, \$38,984	Tri-County Area, \$48,367
Cornell, \$32,636	New Auburn, \$21,872	Turtle Lake, \$34,844
Crivitz, \$49,954	New Lisbon, \$45,125	Wabeno Area, \$37,052
Cuba City, \$44,228	Niagara, \$28,772	Washburn, \$37,949
De Soto Area, \$39,605	North Crawford, \$33,119	Wausaukee, \$39,467
Drummond Area, \$32,636	North Lakeland, \$12,765	Wauzeka-Steuben, \$22,631
Edgar, \$48,161	Northwood, \$28,841	Weston, \$22,217
Elcho, \$27,737	Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton, \$47,678	Weyerhaeuser Area, \$10,833
Eleva-Strum, \$43,538	Owen-Withee, \$39,881	White Lake, \$15,111
Elmwood, \$24,149	Pecatonica Area, \$31,325	Wild Rose, \$49,264
Flambeau, \$43,814	Pepin Area, \$17,732	Winter, \$25,874
Florence, \$39,536	Phelps, \$9,660	Wonewoc-Union Center, \$28,496
Frederic, \$37,259	Pittsville, \$44,711	Woodruff J1, \$34,016
Gilman, \$32,705	Plum City, \$20,906	
Gilmanton, \$15,318	Port Edwards, \$32,636	