

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Wisconsin schools encouraged to apply for school health awards

MADISON — Governor Jim Doyle and State Superintendent Tony Evers are encouraging Wisconsin schools to apply for the Governor’s School Health Award, which recognizes schools that promote healthy eating, physical activity, drug-free lifestyle, parental involvement, and staff wellness.

“Wisconsin schools consistently work hard to create learning environments that promote health and student success,” Doyle said. “I look forward to recognizing schools for their efforts to educate students, school staff members, and families on how to make healthy choices that last a lifetime.”

“Over the past four years, 97 bronze, silver, or gold awards have been awarded to schools around the state, and we hope all schools in Wisconsin consider applying for the 2010 awards,” said Evers. “We know that the most successful schools approach health as a coordinated effort that includes students, all school staff, families, and their entire community.”

The school health award application consists of six sections, with each one focusing on an area related to school health. The sections are: School Policies and Management; Physical Education and Physical Activity; Healthy Eating and Nutrition Education; Alcohol-, Tobacco-, and Drug-Free Lifestyles; Parent and School Partnerships; and Staff Wellness.

Interested schools have until March 19, 2010, to apply for the 2010 awards. Schools should preregister for the program via the web at [www.schoolhealthaward.wi.gov](http://www.schoolhealthaward.wi.gov), assemble a team to review the school’s health initiatives, and then complete and submit the award application.

Past award recipients are eligible to apply again to advance to a new award level (e.g., bronze to silver, silver to gold). Schools that have received a Gold Governor’s School Health Award will be required to meet additional requirements to maintain that status, or they may compete for the platinum level, which is new for the 2009-10 school year.

(more)

A review panel from the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health and the departments of Health Services and Public Instruction will evaluate the applications and recommend awards at the bronze, silver, gold, and platinum levels. An award ceremony will be held in May to recognize those schools receiving a Governor's School Health Award. Go to [www.schoolhealthaward.wi.gov](http://www.schoolhealthaward.wi.gov) to learn more.

“School health award winners are improving their students’ long-term nutritional and physical health,” added Evers. “Healthier students support healthier communities, which in turn support a healthier Wisconsin.”

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**NOTE:** This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2009\\_28.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2009_28.pdf). Additional information about the Governor's School Health Award program can be found at <http://www.schoolhealthaward.wi.gov>.