

News Release

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

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

Partnerships to strengthen mathematics and science instruction

MADISON — Deepening the knowledge and skills of classroom teachers is the priority for \$1.7 million in federal funding for Mathematics and Science Partnership Grants in Wisconsin. The three new two-year grants and four renewal grants will provide training for hundreds of teachers in school districts throughout the state.

“Teachers who have keen insights into their subject area are more likely to craft engaging lessons that inspire their students,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “These partnership grants support sustained and intensive professional development so teachers can accelerate student academic achievement.”

The grants fund high-quality, content-specific professional learning opportunities for mathematics and science teachers. Educators involved in the partnerships may participate in peer coaching and mentoring sessions, meet with colleagues to develop lessons or evaluation techniques that will actively engage students, take coursework that will deepen their knowledge in mathematics or science, or pursue other activities that will strengthen their understanding of how children learn these subjects. All participating teachers attend a summer institute that directly relates to mathematics and science curricula and have follow-up contact throughout the project to support their own academic content learning and classroom practice.

“We need more students who develop a love for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and carry that passion into careers,” Evers said. “Sustained staff development that helps teachers become better at teaching math, science, and other STEM subjects will improve student interest and success in these classes. The STEM fields are the keystone for innovation and the progress we want for our state and nation.”

To be eligible for the competitive grants, partnerships must include at least one high-needs school district and one college or university. To meet the definition of “high-needs,” district results on statewide mathematics or science assessments must fall below the 65 percent proficiency level. Additionally, the district must have: at least 10 percent of its students from families with income below federal poverty guidelines; have a Rural Education Achievement Program or meet local census codes for rural communities; or have missed adequate yearly progress in mathematics based on 2010-11 state test score data.

(more)

In addition to the high-needs district and higher education partner, grant participants may include state education agencies; other public schools, including charter schools; businesses; and nonprofit or for-profit organizations concerned with mathematics or science education.

Funding for the Mathematics and Science Partnership grants is part of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title II, Improving Teacher Quality Grant Program. These programs encourage scientifically based professional development as a means for improving student academic performance. The Mathematics and Science Partnership grant is specifically focused on increasing the academic achievement of students in mathematics and science by enhancing the content knowledge and teaching skills of classroom teachers.

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NOTE: A list of Mathematics and Science Partnership Grants follows. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2012_01.pdf.

Mathematics and Science Partnership Grants

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title II, Part B

New Two-Year Grants

Johnson Creek STEM Partnership - \$248,522

Johnson Creek School District
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Waukesha STEM Academy K-8

La Crosse Science Partnership - \$287,752

Kwik Trip Inc.
La Crosse School District
Onalaska School District
Tomah Area School District
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

West Allis-West Milwaukee Science Partnership - \$423,141

Milwaukee Academy of Science
South Milwaukee School District
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
West Allis-West Milwaukee School District

Renewal Grants (Third Year)

Beaver Dam Science Partnership - \$145,180

Beaver Dam School District
Marian University, Fond du Lac
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

Madison Science Partnership - \$213,456

Beloit School District
Cambridge School District
Cooperative Educational Service Agency 2
Madison Metropolitan School District
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Watertown Unified School District
Whitewater Unified School District

New Lisbon STEM Partnership - \$172,019

Adams-Friendship Area School District
Almond-Bancroft School District
Auburndale School District
Cambria-Friesland School District
Cooperative Educational Service Agency 5
Fall River School District
Lodi School District
Montello School District
Necedah Area School District
New Lisbon School District
Nekoosa School District
Pardeeville Area School District
Pittsville School District
Port Edwards School District
Princeton School District
Randolph School District
Reedsburg School District
Rio Community School District
Rosholt School District
Tri-County Area School District
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
Wautoma Area School District
Westfield School District
Wild Rose School District
Wisconsin Dells School District
Wisconsin Rapids School District

West-Allis/West Milwaukee Mathematics Partnership - \$178,895

West-Allis/West Milwaukee School District
Marquette University, Milwaukee