



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Burmaster awards \$3 million in federal charter school grants

MADISON – State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster announced \$3 million in federal charter school grants for planning, implementation, and dissemination activities during the 2008-09 school year.

“Charter schools provide innovative and unique educational opportunities to students throughout Wisconsin,” said Burmaster. “Over the past eight years, our efforts have helped Wisconsin increase the number of charter schools by almost 150%, and we are a national leader ranking in the top ten states for number of charter schools and the number of students attending them.”

In 2005, Wisconsin received a \$52 million federal competitive grant to expand the number of charter schools in the state and nation. This round of grants provides resources for the 2008-09 school year:

- 2 planning grants, totaling \$100,000, to help plan new charter schools;
- 4 implementation grants, totaling \$400,000, for first-year operations of new charter schools;
- 19 implementation renewal grants, totaling \$2,070,000, for charter schools in the second year of operation; and
- 4 dissemination renewal grants, totaling \$442,000, to enable established charter schools to share best practices with other charter schools.

Combined with grants announced in August 2008, Wisconsin has awarded a total of \$7,317,000 in charter school grants for the 2008-09 year. In the last eight years, the number of public charter schools in Wisconsin has grown from 92 to 221.

(more)

To further assist charter schools in Wisconsin, DPI also announced that there are \$3.6 million in federal supplemental grant funds available to current implementation and implementation renewal charter school grant recipients based on their requests and success with the initial charter grant allocation. These funds are to support their efforts in developing strong charter schools that increase student achievement. Wisconsin implementation and implementation renewal sub grantees currently receiving funds may apply for up to \$90,000 in additional funds depending on the size of the school. Supplemental grant information will be sent to eligible schools later this spring.

“Charter schools are working very hard to raise achievement for all students, and close the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students, students of color, and their peers,” said Burmaster. “We continue to support grants for charter schools that provide additional educational opportunities for Wisconsin students.”

Charter schools are public schools that are accountable to their authorizing agency for performance measures included in the charter contract. Charter schools must employ licensed teachers, involve parents, administer statewide tests, and comply with federal regulations that govern all public schools. Under state law, school districts can authorize an unlimited number of charter schools. In addition, the City of Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and University of Wisconsin-Parkside, have authority to charter schools. For the 2008-09 school year, there are 221 charter schools serving more than 35,781 students in Wisconsin.

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NOTES: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009_23.pdf.
A list of the charter school grant recipients follows.

Charter School Grants

2008-09 Fiscal Year

Fall 2008 Applications

Planning Awards (2)

Appleton Area School District
Appleton Construction Career Academy, \$50,000

Wauwatosa School District
Tosa School of the Trades, \$50,000

Implementation Awards — Initial (4)

Green Lake School District
*Green Lake Global and Environmental Learning
Community, \$100,000*

Milwaukee Public Schools
International Peace Academy High School, \$100,000

Nekoosa School District
Niikuusara Community School, \$100,000

Ripon School District
Crossroads Charter School, \$100,000

Implementation Renewal Awards (19)

Appleton Area School District
Appleton Career Academy, \$125,000

Beloit School District
Roy Chapman Andrews Academy, \$100,000

Cumberland School District
Island City Research Academy, \$100,000

Janesville School District
*CRES (Community Recovery Education Service)
Academy, \$50,000*
Janesville Virtual Academy, \$100,000

Kenosha Unified School District
Harborside Academy, \$125,000

Manitowoc School District
*Manitowoc County Comprehensive Charter School,
\$100,000*
McKinley Academy, \$100,000

Merrill Area Public Schools
Merrill Adult Diploma Academy \$70,000

Milwaukee Public Schools
Foster and Williams High School, \$125,000
James Madison Academic Campus, \$125,000
*Milwaukee African American Immersion High School,
\$125,000*
School for Urban Planning and Architecture, \$125,000

New London School District
School of Enterprise Marketing, \$100,000

Sheboygan Area School District
Elementary School of the Arts and Academics, \$125,000
George D. Warriner High School, \$125,000

UW-Milwaukee
Milwaukee Renaissance Academy, \$125,000

Waukesha School District
*Waukesha Engineering Preparatory Academy,
\$125,000*

Wausau Area School District
*EEA (Enrich, Excel, Achieve) Learning Academy,
\$100,000*

Dissemination Renewal Awards (4)

Hayward Community School District
Waadookodaading Charter School, \$82,000

Milwaukee Public Schools
Hmong American Peace Academy, \$120,000

Oshkosh School District
*ALPs Accelerated Alternative Learning Program,
\$115,000*

Rhineland School District
Northwoods Community Secondary School, \$125,000