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

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Settlement to provide technology to eligible public schools

MADISON – State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster announced that a legal settlement with Microsoft over software purchases in Wisconsin will provide benefits to more than 850 schools in the state.

The Microsoft-Wisconsin Cy Pres Program is the result of a settlement that was reached in class action lawsuits about certain Microsoft software acquired by consumers, businesses, and governments for use in Wisconsin. Under the terms of the court-approved settlement agreement, a cy pres award in the form of vouchers will be distributed to “eligible schools” in Wisconsin.

The purpose of this cy pres program is to extend the benefits of technology to those Wisconsin public schools in which at least 33.3 percent of attending students come from low-income households, based on fall 2005 free and reduced-price school lunch data. School districts with eligible schools will apply to receive platform neutral vouchers that can be redeemed over a four-year period for cash reimbursement for a variety of technology products and services. The total amount of vouchers available for eligible public schools is estimated to be between \$75 and \$80 million. The exact value is scheduled for announcement in mid-2009.

“This settlement will provide significant benefits to eligible schools for technology infrastructure,” Burmaster said. “I encourage districts that have eligible schools to participate in this program to improve student accessibility to modern computer and information technology.”

Together, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, attorneys from the Wisconsin Department of Justice, attorneys for the plaintiffs, and attorneys for Microsoft established a cy pres program for eligible Wisconsin public schools pursuant to the terms of the court-approved settlement agreement. A Settlement Claims Administrator has been selected by the parties and appointed by the court to administer the Microsoft-Wisconsin Cy Pres Program. In June, the Settlement Claims Administrator will contact districts with eligible schools to register. Electronic registration forms must be completed between June 1 and Sept. 18, 2009, on the Microsoft-Wisconsin Cy Pres Program website at <http://MicrosoftWIK12.com>.

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NOTE: A list of schools eligible under the Microsoft-Wisconsin Cy Pres Program is available on the Department of Public Instruction website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/imt/msest.html>. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009_58.pdf.

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