



State of Wisconsin  
Jim Doyle, Governor

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent



\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Carla Vigue, Office of the Governor  
(608) 261-2162 / [carla.vigue@wisconsin.gov](mailto:carla.vigue@wisconsin.gov)

Patrick Gasper, DPI Communications Officer  
(608) 266-3559 / [patrick.gasper@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:patrick.gasper@dpi.wi.gov)

## Doyle, Burmaster announce \$1.3 million for school lunch equipment

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle and State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster today announced \$1.3 million in Recovery Act funds for Wisconsin schools and residential child care institutions to purchase equipment to improve foodservice operations. The funds will be used for enhancing nutrition, supporting food safety, improving energy-efficiency, facilitating expanded participation in meal programs, and incorporating locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables into school lunch programs. Local fruit and vegetable preparation was allowed under the federal grant as a result of a request from the Department of Public Instruction.

“A good, healthy lunch is essential for kids to grow and learn,” Governor Doyle said. “Schools have had to stretch very tight budgets and that often means that some schools continue to use very old foodservice equipment. This immediate investment in school lunch programs will help us to give kids what they need to do well in school for years to come.”

The funds will be shared by 73 school districts, 28 private schools, seven residential child care institutions, and four independent charter schools of varying size from throughout the state to purchase new food service equipment. The oldest foodservice equipment to be replaced by the awardees is an 83-year-old oven in the Bruce School District.

“These grants emphasize cost-savings, nutrition, and local producers, and will help our students, our schools, and our communities,” noted State Superintendent Burmaster. “We can’t forget that a hungry child can’t learn. Reaching more students with nutritious meals will help close achievement gaps between economically disadvantaged students and their peers.”

(more)

Applicants submitted 275 requests to purchase 1,546 pieces of equipment for a total of \$10.4 million—more than eight times the amount of funding available. States were required to give priority to schools and institutions with high poverty rates, as measured by the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. To maximize the economic impact of the grants, the funding must be spent within three months.

The ARRA also provides funding for special education, services to economically disadvantaged students, homeless student education, school construction bonds, education technology, and other purposes.

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**NOTE:** A full list of districts and their award amounts is linked from <http://dpi.wi.gov/fns/recovery.html>. For more about the National School Lunch Program in Wisconsin, see <http://dpi.wi.gov/fns/nslp1.html>. General information about ARRA education programs can be found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/recovery>. This news release is viewable at <http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/prmenu.html>.