



News for Immediate Release

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Governor Rendell Announces More Than \$600 Million Available For School Districts for New Construction, Energy-Savings, and Science

Harrisburg – Dozens of school districts across Pennsylvania will get a funding boost for a wide range of new construction projects, with attractive financing that will save hundreds of millions of dollars, Governor Edward G. Rendell announced today.

Governor Rendell said 46 school districts will receive more than \$600 million in bonds made possible through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The ARRA program will save the districts – and taxpayers -- an estimated \$513 million in financing costs.

“These funds will help put people to work on vital construction projects, save energy costs and help improve educational programs – and the attractive financing will save the taxpayers more than half a billion in financing costs,” Governor Rendell said. “With federal help, we lowered costs and are helping our districts make these terrific improvements. It’s what the Recovery Act is all about.”

Governor Rendell said the school districts – a mix of large and small, rural and urban -- will use the special financing toward projects that will reduce their energy or water consumption, construction that will enable a district to boost its kindergarten, pre-K or upgrade early childhood education, or give more students access to science, technology or engineering lab settings.

The 46 school districts have plans for 101 projects which meet those priorities; 63 projects will reduce energy or water consumption; 28 will improve early childhood education facilities and; 27 will increase access to applied learning labs.

Pennsylvania’s allocation for the Qualified School Construction Bonds was \$602 million – the sixth largest allocation in the nation. Under the program, the federal government pays essentially 100 percent of the interest on the QSCB bonds, which are issued under the recovery act’s Build America Bonds program.

“We went one step further to decrease the costs,” Governor Rendell said. “For the first time in the commonwealth’s history, we’re doing one single bond issue, which means that rather than 46 school districts each paying their own bond counsel and underwriting, the Public School Building Authority will handle the function for all of

them at once. It means that each district will pay just a small portion of the one-time cost for the bond work.”

Governor Rendell was joined today by representatives of four districts receiving the funds: Lancaster, Palmyra, Donegal and York.

Below is a list, by region, of school districts eligible for QSCB funds, and the amount (in thousands):

Altoona/Johnstown Area: \$14,214

Clearfield Area - \$1,965

Harmony Area - \$9,700

Glendale - \$2,549

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Area: \$125,177

Scranton - \$59,627

Stroudsburg Area - \$17,000

Wilkes-Barre Area - \$800

Williamsport Area - \$32,750

Wyoming Valley West - \$15,000

Greater Philadelphia: \$83,242

Downingtown Area - \$28,303

Great Valley - \$999

Lower Moreland Twp - \$1,000

Norristown Area - \$15,600

Radnor Township - \$1,500

Southeast Delco - \$15,750

Upper Darby - \$5,090

William Penn - \$15,000

Lehigh Valley: \$20,666

Allentown City - \$5,666

Conrad Weiser Area - \$15,000

Northeast: \$28,852

Carbondale Area - \$15,000

East Stroudsburg Area - \$1,220

Hazleton Area - \$10,370

Panther Valley - \$2,262

Greater Pittsburgh: \$153,444

Big Beaver Falls Area - \$1,638

Cornell - \$476

Duquesne City - \$645

East Allegheny - \$15,000

Farrell Area - \$810

Jeannette City - \$1,715

McKeesport Area - \$15,000
New Castle Area - \$15,000
Peters Township - \$770
Pittsburgh - \$50,503
Sharon City - \$15,000
South Fayette Twp - \$16,887
Washington - \$20,000

Northwest: \$30,505

Corry Area - \$2,901
Erie City - \$22,078
Otto-Eldred - \$5,526

Susquehanna Valley: \$146,310

Donegal - \$17,000
Harrisburg City - \$9,194
Lancaster - \$55,281
Lebanon - \$15,000
Mahanoy Area - \$2,235
Palmyra Area - \$15,000
Purchase Line - \$8,000
York City - \$24,600

Statewide total: \$602.4 million

For more information, visit the Department of Education online at www.pde.state.pa.us. For more information about how the commonwealth is investing federal Recovery Act funds to benefit Pennsylvania residents, visit www.recovery.pa.gov.

Media contacts:

Gary Tuma, Governor's Office; 717-783-1116
Steve Weitzman, Dept. of Education; 717-783-9802

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