



SANDY GARRETT
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, June 19, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: [Shelly Hickman](mailto:Shelly.Hickman@okstate.gov), Public Affairs Director, (405) 521-3371

Oklahoma Department of Education Awards
200 Schools Federal Economic Stimulus Dollars for Child Nutrition

OKLAHOMA CITY - State Superintendent Sandy Garrett said the Oklahoma Department of Education (SDE) has awarded 200 Oklahoma schools \$1.5 million in federal economic stimulus dollars for child nutrition.

The awards (see attached list of recipients) were made through a competitive grant process with funding given to Oklahoma for child nutrition in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

ARRA provides \$100 million nationally for child nutrition, with \$1,519,638 given to Oklahoma for that purpose.

The SDE was charged in the Act with overseeing the child nutrition funds. Oklahoma schools receiving these funds were awarded grants for the purchase of specific equipment for their kitchens and cafeterias.

"Applications were received from 833 Oklahoma schools in excess of \$23 million," Garrett said. "The applications were ranked using such criteria as the percent of students at each site who qualified for free and reduced priced meals, average daily participation in school meals and the type and cost of the child nutrition equipment they wished to purchase."

Garrett added the schools will be held strictly accountable for spending the funds only on items specified in their applications. They will have to furnish documentation supporting the expenditure of the funds and that information will be shared on the SDE's stimulus Web page at www.sde.state.ok.us.

"We are committed to providing taxpayers transparency and accountability for the stimulus dollars given to Oklahoma and overseen by the Oklahoma Department of Education," Garrett said. "Schools will have to account for every stimulus dime they spend."

- SDE -