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### **18 New Jersey School Districts Receive Federal Grants to Improve World Language Instruction**

Commissioner of Education William L. Librera today announced that 18 school districts are receiving nearly a half million dollars in grants to strengthen and enhance their world languages programs. The districts competed for the grants under the federal Elementary School Foreign Language Incentive Program.

"Congratulations to our school districts for their high level of success in competing for grants in this program," said Commissioner William L. Librera. "New Jersey has strong academic standards in world languages at the elementary school level, and we will continue to help our students obtain essential knowledge and skills in this core content area."

Dr. Librera noted that New Jersey received \$479,804 of a total of approximately \$6 million in grants made available nationally by the U.S. Department of Education.

The Foreign Language Incentive Program is part of a federal effort to support the expansion and improvement of educational programs that meet critical needs. Grant applicants had to offer at least 45 minutes of world language instruction for at least four days a week throughout the academic year in order to compete for funds.

Education research shows that world language study can increase children's capacity for critical and creative thinking skills, and children who study a second language show greater cognitive development in areas such as mental flexibility, creativity, tolerance and higher order thinking skills. Furthermore, studies report that children who have learned a world language in elementary school achieve expected gains and score higher on standardized tests in reading, language arts, and mathematics than children who have not studied a foreign language.

The following lists New Jersey's grant recipients and their grant amounts. The recipients will discuss details of their grant projects at a workshop scheduled for next week.

Berlin Public Schools, Camden County: \$3,986  
Deptford Township Public Schools, Gloucester County: \$55,342  
Elizabeth Public Schools, Union County: \$26,717  
Englewood Public Schools, Bergen County: \$56,572  
Little Ferry Public Schools, Bergen County: \$4,029  
Milltown Public Schools, Middlesex County: \$3,096  
Millville Public Schools, Cumberland County: \$18,363  
Montclair Public Schools, Essex County: \$22,434  
Newark Public Schools, Essex County: \$12,044  
Old Bridge Township Public Schools, Middlesex County: \$18,447  
Point Pleasant Public Schools, Ocean County: \$10,178  
Princeton Regional Schools, Mercer County: \$32,188  
Schomburg Charter School, Hudson County: \$18,066  
Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools, Union County: \$29,728  
Sea Girt Public Schools, Monmouth County: \$763  
Voorhees Township Public Schools, Camden County: \$55,724  
Washington Township, Morris County: \$24,215  
Winslow Township Public Schools, Camden County: \$87,912