



Milwaukee Public Schools

February 4, 2010 – revised

DPI withholds federal funding from MPS *District will request a hearing on loss of Title I funds*

Wisconsin State Superintendent of School Tony Evers has sent notice to Milwaukee Public Schools that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is withholding all Title I funds (for both administration and programming) from the district. Evers' notice states that the action is connected to the district's failure to make the required AYP (Annual Yearly Progress). MPS is a "DIFI district", a District Identified for Improvement, and is operating under a corrective action plan designed by DPI. MPS will submit a written request for a hearing on the matter within the prescribed timeline.

"I am shocked by this action," said MPS Superintendent William Andrekopoulos. "It has been and continues to be the district's position that MPS is complying with the goals set forth by the Department of Public Instruction. "It's unfortunate that this step has been taken. It's a significant detraction from all of the good work we have been doing and continue to do, with the constant and supportive interaction of DPI staff." Milwaukee Board of School President Michael Bonds said there has never been an indication from the state that MPS is NOT in compliance. "DPI states that they want to be sure that federal funds are being used effectively, but there have *never* been a challenge raised by DPI to our administration of federal money," said Bonds.

Title I funds assist the district in bridging the gap between low-income students and other students, and provide resources for programs such as those that nurture parental involvement. The monies are channeled from the U.S. Department of Education by the DPI to the district.

The communication sent from Superintendent Ever's office does not reference the amount of federal money his office is withholding. MPS administrators are seeking clarification. The district has been awarded approximately \$122.5 million in Title IA and Title I American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) Funds through the state for the current fiscal year (FY10).

MPS is the largest public school district in the State of Wisconsin, with 198 schools serving more than 84,000 students. Achievement and improvement are guided by the MPS strategic plan *Working Together, Achieving More*. For more information call MPS Communication Director Roseann St. Aubin, (414)475-8237.



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