

Jefferson Elementary receives funds for fresh fruits, vegetables

Jefferson Elementary School students will get a fresh fruit and vegetable snack during the day in the coming school year, thanks to almost \$7,000 in federal funds.

This elementary in the Richland School District received a \$6,878 USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant that will allow the school district to provide the nutritious treat. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction awarded \$1.3 million to elementary schools throughout the state for the 2009-10 school year. Other local schools receiving funding are Riverdale Elementary with \$10,341 and La Farge Elementary School, \$6,125.

This program began in 2006 with 25 participating schools. For this year's competitive grant, 73 schools were chosen based upon geographic distribution and percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunch according to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Schools will receive about \$51 per student to purchase the fresh produce. As part of the Federal Farm bill, it was launched to combat childhood obesity. The healthy snacks, combined with teachable moments promote healthy choices. Schools who have participated in the past noticed that students began to bring healthier foods to school.