FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Twenty-six Schools Apply for School Improvement Grant Opportunity

Federal grants to help persistently low performing schools will be awarded in August

(Roseville, MN…) Most schools eligible to apply for the federal government's $34 million School Improvement Grant met the July 1st deadline to access part of the grant targeting the state's chronically struggling schools. According to the Minnesota Department of Education, 26 schools submitted applications before the deadline and four schools declined to apply.

"We are eager to work with the schools applying for this grant to help all of their students get the education they deserve," said Education Commissioner Alice Seagren.

Department staff will complete the review of applications within two weeks and meet with schools for clarifications. The grants will be awarded on August 1, 2010.

Each of the schools designed an application to meet the shortcomings identified in a detailed report on the school developed by Cambridge Consulting, a vendor chosen by the Department of Education. In their application the schools had to choose one of four turn around strategies proscribed by the U.S. Department of Education.

- **Turnaround Model**: Replace the principal, screen existing school staff, and rehire no more than half the teachers; adopt a new governance structure; and improve the school through curriculum reform, professional development, extending learning time, and other strategies.
- **Restart Model**: Convert a school or close it and re-open it as a charter school or under an education management organization.
- **School Closure**: Close the school and send the students to higher-achieving schools in the district.
- **Transformation Model**: Replace the principal and improve the school through comprehensive curriculum reform, professional development, extending learning time, and other strategies.

View the reports here on the department's website.

(more)

The list of schools and their chosen turnaround model:

BRAHAM AREA SECONDARY	BRAHAM PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	Transformation
BROOKLYN CENTER SECONDARY	BROOKLYN CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	Transformation
CASS LAKE-BENA SECONDARY	CASS LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	Transformation
EAST CENTRAL SENIOR SECONDARY	EAST CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	Transformation
HMONG COLLEGE PREP ACADEMY HS	HMONG COLLEGE PREP ACADEMY	Transformation
ISLE SECONDARY	ISLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	Transformation
BETHUNE ELEMENTARY	MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	Transformation
BROADWAY ARTS & TECHNOLOGY	MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	Transformation
EDISON SENIOR HIGH	MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	Turnaround
HMONG INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY	MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	Transformation
LUCY LANEY @ CLEVELAND PARK ELEM.	MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	Turnaround
WELLSTONE INTERNATIONAL HIGH	MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	Transformation
EAST HIGH	MINNESOTA INTERNSHIP CENTER	Transformation
UNITY CAMPUS	MINNESOTA INTERNSHIP CENTER	Transformation
TRANSITIONS SR. HIGH	MINNESOTA TRANSITIONS CHARTER	Transformation
NEW SPIRIT PRIMARY SCHOOL	NEW SPIRIT SCHOOL	Turnaround
NEW VISIONS CHARTER SCHOOL	NEW VISIONS CHARTER SCHOOL	Transformation
OGILVIE SECONDARY	OGILVIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	Transformation
NORTH VIEW IB WORLD SCHOOL	OSSEO PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	Transformation
PONEMAH ELEMENTARY	RED LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	Transformation
RED LAKE SENIOR HIGH	RED LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	Transformation
RIVERWAY SECONDARY	RIVERWAY CHARTER SCHOOL	Transformation
HUMBOLDT SENIOR HIGH	ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	Turnaround
MAXFIELD MAGNET ELEMENTARY	ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	Transformation

URBAN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	URBAN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	Transformation
WAUBUN SECONDARY	WAUBUN PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	Transformation

The four schools that did not return an application are Butterfield Secondary, Four Directions Charter School, Greenbush-Middle River Senior High and Cityview Performing Arts Magnet in the Minneapolis School District. Cityview indicated they will apply for the grant next year.

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