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For more information, please contact:

Karen S. Angello, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Allentown School District
484-765-4235

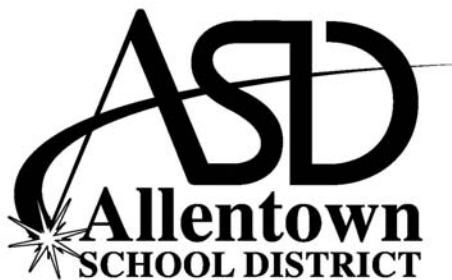
angellok@allentownsd.org

George Crawford
Chief Financial/Operating Officer
Allentown School District
484-765-4012

crawfordg@allentownsd.org

Susan L. Williams, APR, MA
Susan Williams & Associates
610-366-2155

suewill@ptd.net



**ASD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CERTIFY ACT 1 LOCAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$529 PER APPROVED HOMESTEAD**

June 29, 2009 – Allentown, PA – The ASD Board of Directors took action Thursday, June 25th to certify \$529.00 in local property tax relief for each approved homestead property for fiscal year 2009-2010. The Lehigh County Assessment Office had previously certified on May 1, 2009 that the District had 18,246 approved homestead applications. For each and every tax payer with an approved homestead application, a standard homestead property assessment exclusion in the amount of \$12,316.00 will appear on their school real estate property tax bill to be mailed the first week of July 2009. Based on the District's existing millage rate of 42.942 mills, this property assessment exclusion will result in \$529.00 in local

property tax relief for next year. The amount is the same for each tax payer who qualifies and it does not fluctuate in any way based on the individual tax payer's total taxable assessed value.

"I'm glad the gaming revenues continue to provide real property tax relief for Allentown's homeowners," says Jeff Glazier, ASD Board Member and Co-Chair of the Board's Finance Committee.

This is the second year of Pennsylvania's first broad-based property tax relief that is an outcome of the Special Session Act 1 of 2006 and signed into law by Governor Rendell on June 27, 2006. As required by law, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Budget Secretary certified on April 15, 2009, that \$612,900,000 in gaming revenue will be available in 2009-2010 for state-funded property tax relief to local school districts who agreed to participate in the distribution for 2009-2010. The total amount certified and appropriated for the School District of the City of Allentown is \$9,642,013.

The ASD Board of Directors' action Thursday night was based on a Homestead Assessment Exclusion Calculation provided by its Financial Advisor, Public Financial Management in Harrisburg, to certify \$529.00 in local property tax relief for each approved homestead property for fiscal year 2009-2010.

"We are obviously pleased with the Governor's Local Property Tax Relief allocation," says Todd Larmer, Allentown School Board Director and Co-Chair of the Board's Finance Committee. "The benefits of gaming have been extended to all homeowners and not just those in close vicinities to the casinos, proof that Governor Rendell's introduction of gaming into Pennsylvania has been accomplished in a responsible way."

The average residential assessed valuation of all properties located within ASD boundaries is approximately \$37,500. The average residential tax bill is \$1,610.33. The \$529.00 computes to a 33% reduction in local property taxes for 2009-2010.

Allentown residents **MUST** have an approved homestead application filed and approved by the Lehigh County Assessment Office in order to qualify for this property tax relief. The School District is required to notify all eligible property owners by December 31 of each year if their property is not approved for the homestead exclusion or if their approval is due to expire. To confirm an approved homestead or to verify the status of an individual homestead property, residents are encouraged to contact the Lehigh County Assessment Office. If a property owner is not approved, and certified to the District by May 1 of each year, that property owner does not qualify for the following year's property tax relief.

ABOUT ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

As the fourth largest of 501 districts throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Allentown School District has a General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$228,879,620, educates approximately 18,100 students in 22 early childhood, elementary, middle and high schools located throughout the City of Allentown, and employs over 2,050 administrators, teaching professionals and staff members.

31 S. Penn St., P.O. Box 328, Allentown, PA 18105

484-765-4000

www.allentownsd.org