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Movin' and Munchin' Schools Program Receives Top Award

WEA Trust and DPI's *Movin' and Munchin' Schools* program sees success beyond public school health and wellness

Wisconsin Dells...The WEA Trust on Thursday was named one of the first recipients of the *State Superintendent's Prevention Partner Award*. The Department of Public Instruction's Student Services Prevention and Wellness team, along with members of the advisory council, selected the WEA Trust to receive this recognition as a result of our work with the *Movin' and Munchin' Schools* program.

The *Movin' and Munchin' Schools* program is administered through the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and sponsored by the WEA Trust (a not-for-profit group health insurer that insures many Wisconsin public school employees). *Movin' and Munchin'* is a program designed for public school employees, children, and their families. It helps schools organize innovative and fun approaches to healthy eating and exercise. Schools that participate in the *Movin' and Munchin'* program may receive up to \$1,000 in awards.

Through the Trust's promotional efforts, participation in the program has increased by over 30%, to 36,500 children and adults.

"We are honored to be receiving this award. *Movin' and Munchin'* is yet another example of the Trust's commitment to our Wisconsin public school employees and the kids they teach. This program helps to instill a culture of healthy lifestyle choices," said Fred Evert, WEA Trust President and CEO.

The award was presented during the *Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference* in Wisconsin Dells on December 6, 2007. Over 400 guests were in attendance, all coordinators of public school district prevention programs.

Award recipients were chosen from varying categories based on statewide reach and impact resulting from their prevention efforts. The Trust was awarded for the category of School Employee Health and Wellness.

Additional award recipients were the American Lung Association of Wisconsin for their efforts in tobacco prevention and cessation, Mental Health America of Wisconsin for their work with adolescent mental health and suicide prevention, and the Center for School, Youth, and Citizen Preparedness for their crisis planning and violence prevention programs.

Additional information about the *Movin' and Munchin'* program can be found at movinandmunchin.com.