

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
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# DOENEWS:

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*WIPP file*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SCHOOLS TO GET WIPP COMPUTER COMPONENTS

CARLSBAD, N.M., September 7, 1994 -- Southeastern New Mexico schools' math and science students will have access to more computers this fall under a new gift program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The DOE's Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) established the Math and Science Equipment Gift Program for the 12 school districts participating in the Southeastern New Mexico Educational Resource Center (SNMERC), according to George Dials, CAO area manager.

"The CAO looks forward to enhancing our local schools' math and science activities with these equipment gifts," said Dials.

The program will provide local schools with used computers and other equipment from the federal government's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for use in math and science education curricula. The equipment may also be used in technical and scientific education and research activities in the school districts. The initial list includes 289 computer components.

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"The equipment has been declared excess to the needs of the WIPP project," Dials explained. "The CAO periodically upgrades older, slower equipment as developments require improved processing capabilities. We are glad the schools can use this equipment in their important math and science programs."

Each school district will review the list of equipment and make their request through the SNMERC board of directors, which is made up of the participating schools' superintendents. The Research Center will recommend to the CAO how the equipment should be distributed among its member school districts.

Districts participating in the program include Artesia, Carlsbad, Dexter, Eunice, Hagerman, Hobbs, Jal, Lake Arthur, Loving, Lovington, Roswell and Tatum.

The WIPP is a research and development facility operated by the CAO. Located 26 miles east of Carlsbad, it is designed to demonstrate the safe permanent disposal of transuranic radioactive wastes from the nation's nuclear weapons production program.

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