



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES
Carla Chiaro, ACTING COMMISSIONER

Heather Groll - Public Affairs Office
(518) 474-5987
Heather.groll@ogs.state.ny.us
<http://www.ogs.state.ny.us>

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**OGS HELPS SCHOOL DISTRICT OBTAIN \$80,000 STEINWAY GRAND PIANO
FROM FEDERAL SURPLUS PROGRAM FOR \$1,000
*Rensselaer City School District Receives Instrument***

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Acting Commissioner Carla Chiaro, today announced that the Rensselaer City School District (RCSD) paid \$1,000 for a 1994 Steinway grand piano worth \$80,000 last week. The piano, which was obtained through the OGS administered federal surplus property program, was delivered last week. The District paid \$1,000 to cover administrative costs associated with the surplus program, plus shipping fees for the instrument. The RCSD has acquired more than 75 instruments worth over \$200,000 in the 20 years they have participated in the program.

"Music programs in school districts often take some of the first hits when budget challenges such as those that are currently facing the state take hold," Acting Commissioner Chiaro said. "By participating in the federal surplus program, RCSD was able to obtain an exceptional piano that they would have otherwise been unable to afford. Governor Paterson has asked that state agencies do whatever they can to reduce costs to the taxpayer and administering this program is a productive way to do that."

Rensselaer City School District Superintendent Sally Shields said "It's not every day that a musical instrument of such high caliber becomes available to a public school. I am thrilled that our music department will have the ability to work with our students on professional quality equipment that I am certain will raise the quality of our concerts and theatrical productions to a new level. Parents and community members who attend musical events at the school will be treated to something very special. This piano will be greatly appreciated not only by those who play it, but also by those who have the opportunity to listen to it."

The piano was procured from the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Potomac Service Center in Washington, DC. Each week, the federal government makes a list of surplus items available for transfer to state agencies based on a system of fair and equitable distribution with educational uses receiving a higher priority. OGS maintains a list of items of interest to localities and will contact that entity should one of their items become available.

Other educational institutions that have received items recently include State University of New York at Cobleskill, Averill Park Schools, Champlain Valley BOCES, Clinton Essex BOCES and Houghton College. During the last year, OGS facilitated the transfer of \$7.5 million in federal surplus items that included an airplane, construction equipment, vehicles, and tools.

OGS' management of the federal surplus property program is self-sustaining. A modest assessment, capped at five percent, is levied on the state and local beneficiaries and reflects the relative age and condition of the item transferred.

The New York State Office of General Services (OGS) provides a broad range of support services that facilitate the operations of State government and assist local governments, public authorities, and public and private agencies. OGS offers numerous services to clients throughout the Empire State, including property management, design and construction, procurement, and various support services.

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