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### **MORE MONEY FOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT AS KIDS GET SET TO BE CHAMPIONS**

Schools across the State will receive funding to buy extra sports equipment for the growing numbers of students enrolling in the Premier's *be active* Challenge.

Education Minister Jay Weatherill today announced that 240 schools would share in \$100,000 funding as the number of students enrolled in the health and well-being initiative reached 35,000.

“The *be active* Challenge kicked off in 2007 in an effort to address childhood obesity and other health issues,” Mr Weatherill said.

“The program involves students doing at least 60 minutes of physical activity a day for four weeks and is based on national physical activity guidelines.

“In the inaugural year 7500 students completed the challenge and I’m pleased to say that this year we have 35,000 students enrolled.”

Mr Weatherill also announced that the *be active* awards are being extended – to award prizes to the “champion” students who have participated in the healthy-living program for four years running.

Last year, more than 2,000 students received gold medals, 10,000 earned silver and more than 15,000 were awarded a bronze medal. This year, champion medals will be awarded to students who have done all four years.

“While presenting students with medals for their hard work is important, the real prize is the health benefits of physical activity – a reduced chance of cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes and some forms of cancer,” Mr Weatherill said.

“The success of the program is testament to the fact that students want to be active

“Through the *be active* Challenge and these grants, we’re helping children work up a sweat in the name of building healthy habits for life.

“Regular physical activity is important for children’s learning and development.

“We’re encouraging children to form healthy habits early and supporting schools with the resources they need to make physical activity fun.”

To help support the program, 240 schools will share in \$100,000 in grants to buy more physical activity equipment for students or to provide specialist training for teachers. A further \$50,000 will be shared by 50 of the highest-achieving schools at the end of the school year.