

**WASHINGTON, Friday, August 11**— A federal grant of more than \$370,000 has been awarded to Tuscaloosa city schools to enhance counseling services for elementary students, U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) announced today.

The city school district applied for the grant earlier this year and will use the funds at four elementary schools to expand their capacity to provide student counseling services.

“School counselors play a crucial role in educating our elementary school children. They provide counseling, support and educational programs for students, parents and school staff. With this federal grant, counselors in these elementary schools in Tuscaloosa will be able to better promote student success through a focus on academic achievement, prevention and intervention activities as needed, and social and emotional development. All students benefit from the services of a school counselor who cares about them and offers a comprehensive counseling program,” said Bachus, who represents most of Tuscaloosa County in Congress.

The grant of \$370,309 will be available over a three-year period, said Bachus. The federal funds will expand counseling services, identify model counseling strategies and broaden the inventory of effective counseling programs, according to the grant request made by the Tuscaloosa City schools.