

STATE ED BOARD ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR BEFORE, AFTER SCHOOL CENTERS

Three Nebraska communities were recently awarded new federal grants for before- and after-school programs.

Before- and after-school programs will soon open at nine new sites in the Gibbon, Lincoln and Omaha communities. These programs provide extra help for students in reading, mathematics and other studies.

The State Board of Education approved grants for the following new programs:

- Gibbon Public Schools received a \$58,050 federal grant for its elementary school.
- Lincoln Public Schools received a \$283,125 federal grant for programs at Holmes Elementary School, Pershing Elementary School, Lefler Middle School and Mickle Middle School.
- Middle School Learning Center Initiative (Omaha Community Foundation) received a \$312,775 grant for Omaha programs at Marrs Middle School, McMillan Middle School, Morton Middle School and Norris Middle School.

In addition, six quality programs at 23 schools across the state will continue to receive federal grants for 21st Century Community Learning Center programs. These grants are available for five years. The programs are:

- Gering Public Schools with program sites at Lincoln Elementary School and Northfield Elementary School under a \$50,000 continuation federal grant.
- Grand Island Public Schools with program sites at Dodge Elementary School, Knickrehm Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School, Starr Elementary School and Wasmer Elementary School under a \$67,125 federal grant.
- Kearney Public Schools with programs at Bryant Elementary School, Central Elementary School, Emerson Elementary School and Kenwood Elementary School under a \$129,694 federal grant.
- Lincoln Public Schools with program sites at Clinton Elementary School, Elliott Elementary School, Hartley Elementary School, Huntington Elementary School, Riley Elementary School, Saratoga Elementary School, West Lincoln Elementary School and Goodrich Middle School under a \$137,250 federal grant.
- Omaha Public Schools with program sites at Indian Hill Elementary School, King Elementary School and Liberty Elementary School under a \$118,393 federal grant.
- Scottsbluff Public Schools will offer a program at Roosevelt Elementary School under a \$50,000 federal grant.

Nebraska Commissioner of Education Roger Breed said: “Research shows that before- and-after-school programs increase student academic achievement, reduce substance abuse, stem juvenile crime and reduce teen pregnancy rates.

“With an emphasis on academics, these programs help our children meet and exceed Nebraska academic standards by providing services such as mentoring and tutoring. And, by working with

other agencies, the programs also provide benefits such as positive youth development, physical fitness, career exploration and community service experiences,” Breed said.

The primary goals of these 21st Century Community Learning Centers are improved student learning, increased social benefits and positive behavioral changes as well as increased family and community engagement in Nebraska schools.

“These grants will support more than 1,300 Nebraska students by providing enrichment and positive youth development services,” said Karen Stevens, state director of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant program.

In the past six years, the Nebraska Department of Education has awarded 37 first-time federal grants for students at 98 different sites in 26 Nebraska communities.