

## **21st Century Community Learning Center Grant (After School Program)**

### **Moves Into it's 3rd Year at PES!**

The goal of the Phillips Elementary School 21st CCLC program (after school hours 3:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.) going into it's third year will be to offer math and reading enrichment activities to all students' grades 1 through 5 in a manner that does not parrot day school programming. Thematic units using resources from Reading Street and STEM will be established with a hands on approach in a free exploration, but guided setting. The intent of this approach is to reach those students who may be struggling because of their inability to function in a standard day school setting. CLC staff, day school staff, volunteers, and community members and agencies will provide homework help and academic enrichment activities with a focus on improving achievement of academically at-risk students. Progress monitoring of regular attendees will validate the efforts of the CLC staff and provide feedback for further remediation. Consistent contact with day school teachers will assure a smooth continuum of services.

Because of the expansive service area, transportation will be offered to all regular attendees of the after school component of the program.

A morning session (before school hours 7:15 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.) either in the library for passive socialization or homework time and a physically active time will be available for students.

Partnerships with community organizations, agencies, individuals and businesses will be further developed for the purpose of providing additional enrichment activities for students and services for families. Selection of events will be identified through surveys completed by parents and from input provided by local family service agencies. A focus on issues surrounding high poverty will be made.

**\*The primary source of funding for this program is the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant.**

At the end of each year the Phillips Elementary School takes a self assessment of their After School Program (ASP). The self assessment - WASCIP, addresses twenty-one areas for assessment within the framework of four key areas of program operation:

- \*Administration

- \*Programming

- \*Supportive Environment for Youth Development

- \*Partnerships

The WASCIP is intended to assist programs in identifying areas for improvement and develop a plan to address them. The assessment tool also offers program staff an opportunity to recognize areas of the program that are exceptional.

Results of the self-assessment at Phillips Elementary School using WASCIP are as follows:

**Administration:** Financing and resources were the only 2 elements that received a rating of exemplary or proficient. Data from WASCIP indicates that a formal system of documentation, holding meetings, parent notification of student progress, and management practices needs to be developed since these elements were considered basic. Key to meeting this challenge will be to develop an active advisory committee and to hold regular CLC staff meetings for the purpose of assessing program progress toward correcting or modifying deficiencies.

**Academic Programming:** Strengths of academic programming include the amount of resources available for CLC staff use and that day school staff from each grade level work weekly in the CLC to act as tutors. With the morning CLC, opportunities for student recreational activities is high. A formal communication system between CLC staff and day school staff needs to be developed. CLC staff needs regular training on day school academic activities to assure a smooth continuum of services.

**Youth Development:** The community programs that partner with the CLC staff specialize in youth development and leadership. As a result, youth have ample opportunity to lead activities and exhibit their strengths. Though half of the elements were rated proficient or exemplary, deficient areas that will be addressed are development of more consistent disciplinary practices and increased time for students to provide program feedback and reflection. A focus will be on students using their social skills to lead activities.

**Partnerships:** The program has many strong partnerships that have a good working relationship with the CLC director. A goal will be to increase the number of community partners that currently work with CLC staff and students. The WASCIP assessment data revealed the need to significantly improve parent involvement and program transparency. This is one of the program objectives and will be addressed with the CLC advisory committee and through regularly scheduled CLC staff meetings.

In summation, formal communication in all areas including CLC staff with parents, day school staff, administration, and community needs improvement. Though informal communication exists, it does not rise to the level necessary to develop a proficient or exemplary program. A regularly scheduled method of assessing and monitoring program activities needs to be developed. These issues will be addressed in a corrective manner for the 2016-17 school year, while maintaining those elements that are proficient or exemplary.

We look forward to working with all students, parents, and community members to make 2016-17 another great year with the after school program!