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News Release

Five Districts Receive Student Wellness Grants

The Colorado Department of Education today announced the awards of student wellness grants to five school districts—Englewood School District, Lamar RE-2 School District, Las Animas RE-1 School District, Northeast Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) and Poudre R-1 School District.

The grants are the result of House Bill 08-1224, approved by the Colorado General Assembly to fund student wellness programs.

Each district will receive \$50,000 per year for the next three years to use the Coordinated School Health model to address their highest need areas and emphasize physical education and nutrition improvements. The funding period began on Dec. 1.

During the first six months of implementation, schools will create a school health team and conduct a self assessment of their schools to determine how “healthy” they are. The districts will hire health coordinators to oversee the work. Districts have already identified some of their needs.

Englewood School District plans to improve physical education in grades five, eight and 10 using fitness gram assessments. They will also improve health education programs in grades K-5.

Lamar RE-2 School District will improve health education and physical education through curriculum expansion and improve implementation of the district wellness policy.

Las Animas RE-1 School District will evaluate the school lunch program to improve school meals and train food service staff. The district will also involve community and parents in promoting culturally appropriate healthy food choices. In addition, the district will increase physical activity in classrooms and improve the physical education program.

Northeast BOCES will improve physical education and health education curriculum in 10 school districts through technology and student involvement for nutrition planning. Annual student fitness plans for each student will be created and physical activity during the school day and before and after school will be increased.

Poudre R-1 School District will improve the coordination between science, health education and physical education to emphasize student wellness. The district also plans to improve the physical education classes with individual student assessments using TriFIT technology.

Success of the student wellness programs will be measured against the Healthy Schools Program Framework located at:
www.healthiergeneration.org/schools.aspx?id=76&ekmense1=1ef02451_10_114_btnlink.

A local student wellness program is a program adopted by a school district or BOCES that is coordinated with health education and is designed to provide services to students in one or more of the following areas:

- Physical education
- Nutrition services
- Mental health counseling and services
- Promotion of a healthy school environment
- Health services
- Parent and community involvement in supporting and reinforcing healthy choices
- Health education

The district/BOCES coordinator will oversee the implementation of the local wellness policy in every building, coordinate with the comprehensive health education and local advisory council and assist the school health wellness teams in completing a building needs assessment and School Health Improvement Plan for student wellness.

For more information regarding the student wellness program grants, please contact Karen Connell at 303-866-6903 or at connell_k@cde.state.co.us.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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