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Feb. 17, 2010

News Release

Ten School Districts in Colorado Receive “Healthy Kids Learn Better” Grant To Improve Health And Wellness Programs

The Colorado Legacy Foundation today announced that 10 school districts in Colorado have been selected to receive funding to support and guide their efforts to improve existing health and wellness programs.

The Legacy Foundation received the grant totaling \$868,080 last summer from the Colorado Health Foundation. Applications for the grant were due in January.

The one- and two-year grants are designed to positively impact student achievement by implementing best practices related to nutrition, physical education, health education, school-based health and worksite wellness for students and staff.

“The end goal here is to increase student achievement,” said Helayne Jones, executive director of the Colorado Legacy Foundation. “Healthy students and academic achievement go hand in hand. The Colorado Health Foundation’s latest health report card documents that Colorado continues to fall behind in important areas affecting children’s health. We want to do our part to create healthier communities in Colorado.”

Six districts will be awarded \$10,000 per year for two years with multiple areas of focus.

- Bethune School District – Nutrition, Health Education, Physical Activity and Employee Wellness
- Campo School District Re-6 – Nutrition, Employee Wellness
- Durango School District 9-R – Health Education, Employee Wellness
- East Grand School District – Nutrition, Employee Wellness
- Elizabeth C-1 School District – Health Education, Physical Activity
- Monte Vista C-8 School District – Health Education, Nutrition, Physical Activity, Employee Wellness

Four remaining districts will receive a \$10,000, one-year grant. Those districts will each focus on implementation on one area. They are:

- Boulder Valley Re-2 School District – Nutrition
- Colorado Springs School District 11 – Coordinated School Health
- Thompson School District – Employee Wellness
- Weld County School District 6 – Nutrition

All 10 school districts will use the Legacy Foundation's 2009 Best Practices Guide to assist them with their health and wellness programs. Available at www.colegacy.org/guide_2009/, the guide is the second in a series of annual best practices published by the Colorado Legacy Foundation in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education. Shorter print versions in English and Spanish are available to download at the link above.

Grant recipients can use the money to pay for costs associated with conducting the completion of the Best Practices Guide checklist and implementing the Best Practices Guide plan including classroom education, program activities, equipment; training, staff wellness programs, policy development, school or district team meetings and stipends.

Districts will receive their funding by Friday, March 5, 2010.

About The Colorado Legacy Foundation

The Colorado Legacy Foundation is a privately funded nonprofit organization that works to address emerging educational issues and spark innovation in schools throughout Colorado.

Founded in 2007, the Colorado Legacy Foundation is governed by an independent board of trustees that develops initiatives to support the Colorado Department of Education's work – innovation, entrepreneurship, 21st-century teaching and learning and the dissemination of best practices.

Current initiatives focus on enhancing teacher effectiveness and promoting student health and wellness.

For more information regarding the Colorado Legacy Foundation, contact Executive Director Helayne Jones at hjones@colegacy.org or 303-736-6477.

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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