

Egg Harbor Township Schools

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Egg Harbor Township School District Receives \$500,000 Grant for After-School Programming at Elementary School

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, NJ – More than 200 students at Egg Harbor Township's Dr. Joyanne D. Miller Elementary School can look forward this year to free after-school STEM and fitness-infused activities, homework help from certified teachers, educational trips, and forming new friendships, thanks to a five-year \$500,000 per-year grant from the New Jersey Department of Education through its 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program.

The purpose of the state's 21st CCLC Program is to supplement the education of students in grades 4-12 who attend schools eligible for Title I school-wide programs or schools where a minimum of 30 percent of students are from low-income families. The program aims to assist students in attaining the skills necessary to meet New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards by providing participating students with academic enrichment opportunities that complement the regular school day.

"We are extremely excited to be given this opportunity to impact our students in such a positive way. It is our hope that this new after-school program will not only provide our students with academic support,

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but also engage them in fun and enriching activities throughout the school year,” said Principal Latifah Potter.

Nationally, studies show that high-quality afterschool programs can improve the odds of success, particularly for children whose personal circumstances put them at higher risk for school failure. Children in afterschool programs score higher on standardized tests, exhibit more positive social behavior, and are less likely to use drugs.

According to NJ Department of Education’s website, the vision for New Jersey’s 21st CCLC Program is to develop high-quality, out-of-school time programs through community learning centers that provide services not just to the child but to the entire family. The competitive grant program is designed to enhance the impact on student achievement. Prior to this year’s grant awards, there were 52 grantees throughout the state receiving 21st CCLC Program funding including local education agencies, non-profits, for-profit, community-based and faith-based organizations, operating solely or in partnership with other agencies.

Egg Harbor Township’s After School Program for Instruction, Recreation & Enrichment (ASPIRE) at Miller will offer comprehensive after-school and summer programming in STEM-themed academic enrichment and remediation, positive youth development, culture and arts, health and nutrition, and fitness and physical activity that will raise test scores and close the achievement gap between student groups, reduce summer learning loss, and offer families of students opportunities for core family strengthening activities, financial and job-related workshops, counseling, literacy and citizenship-related educational development.

Egg Harbor Township School District is partnering with Family Service Association (FSA) who will provide access to family health services, employment-related services, parent education, life skills training, housing-related services, family strengthening events, mental health counseling, substance abuse services and recreation to families of student participants. The district is also collaborating with Literacy Volunteers Association Cape Atlantic, Inc. who will provide a minimum of 40 adult students with 50 hours of literacy instruction to parents/guardians of students; and Rutgers SNAP-Ed and AtlantiCare Healthy Schools,



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Healthy Children who will provide healthy cooking, eating and wellness programming.

The 3-hour, five-days-per-week after-school program is slated to start by October 2, and run through June, 2018. A four-week summer program will follow.

Enrollment at Dr. Joyanne D. Miller Elementary School, which serves the district's 4th and 5th grade population, is over 1,100 students. Participation in the program is free and will be determined on a lottery basis, due to the volume of students at Miller. Registration forms were sent home with students on Friday, Sept. 8, and an automated call followed to Miller parents/guardians announcing that registration is currently underway through Sept. 13.

Those selected via the lottery process will be contacted via letter on Monday, September 18, 2017. For more information, please contact the district's 21st CCLC Program Director Kristen Boyd at (609) 407-2500 X2325 or via email to boydk@eht.k12.nj.us.

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