



Bensalem Township School District PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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“Bensalem Township School District Awarded 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant”

BENSALEM, PA — Bensalem Township School District is pleased to announce that the Pennsylvania Department of Education has awarded funding for two new, five year, Cohort 10 grants in the amount \$400,000 each, per year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2024 to operate 21st Century Community Learning Centers at:

- Bensalem Township School High School in partnership with The Ivins Outreach Center. The new funding targets students in 9th through 12th grade.
- Robert K. Shafer Middle School, St. Charles Borromeo School, and Saint Ephrem School in partnership with The Ivins Outreach Center. The new funding targets students in 7th and 8th grade.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grant is a competitive grant that provides federal funding to establish community learning centers that provide academic, artistic, and cultural enrichment opportunities for students and their families. These opportunities must occur during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session to help students attending qualified schools to meet state and local standards in core academic subjects. Centers must also offer students a broad array of activities that can complement their regular academic programs, to offer literacy and other educational services to their families.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program is authorized under Title IV, Part B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Act of 2015

The 21st CCLC grant is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and provides funding for the establishment of community learning centers to provide students with academic enrichment opportunities. In addition to academics, 21st CCLC grantees may also use the funds to carry out a broad array of activities that advance student academic achievement and support student success, including before and after school, summer, Saturdays, and holiday programming. A minimum of 50 percent of daily programming must directly target reading, math, and science enrichment with the balance of activities occurring on a rotational basis. "Each eligible entity that receives an award under ESSA may use the award funds to carry out a broad array of activities that advance student academic achievement and support student success, including:

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- (1) Academic enrichment learning programs, mentoring programs, remedial education activities, and tutoring services, that are aligned with
 - (A) The challenging state academic standards and any local academic standards;
 - (B) Local curricula that are designed to improve student academic achievement;
- (2) Well-rounded education activities, including such activities that enable students to be eligible for credit recovery or attainment;
- (3) Literacy education programs, including financial literacy programs and environmental literacy programs;
- (4) Programs that support a healthy and active lifestyle, including nutritional education and regular, structured physical activity programs;
- (5) Services for individuals with disabilities;
- (6) Programs that provide after-school activities for students who are English learners that emphasize language skills and academic achievement;
- (7) Cultural programs;
- (8) Telecommunications and technology education programs;
- (9) Expanded library service hours;
- (10) Parenting skills programs that promote parental involvement and family literacy;
- (11) Programs that provide assistance to students who have been truant, suspended, or expelled to allow the students to improve their academic achievement;
- (12) Drug and violence prevention programs and counseling programs;
- (13) Programs that build skills in science, technology, engineering, and math (referred to in this paragraph as 'STEM'), including computer science, and that foster innovation in learning by supporting nontraditional STEM education teaching methods; and
- (14) Programs that partner with in-demand fields of the local workforce or build career competencies and career readiness and ensure that local workforce and career readiness skills are aligned with the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.).

Currently, PDE is administering 21st CCLC grants to three cohorts of awardees. The Cohort 10 grant award is for five consecutive years, contingent on continued availability of funding from the federal government and satisfactory performance. If awardees are found to not be meeting the requirements of the grant or choose to no longer participate in years two through five, subsequent funding will not be provided to those entities.

This is a great opportunity for the Bensalem community. We are very excited and look forward to working with our partners to implement programs supported by the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant.