



March 24, 2009

## Schools applying for grants for summer, after-school programs

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FREMONT -- In a partnership with WSOS Community Action Commission, Fremont, Clyde-Green Springs and Fostoria City schools are in the process of applying for grants to fund summer and after-school programs.

WSOS spokeswoman Joyce Huntley said the grants are highly competitive and must be applied for each time.

"We get them for a time period of three or five years," she said.

Fremont first received its grant in 1999, and has been receiving it ever since. However, it received local funding in 1998.

The Fremont City School District is applying for two Ohio Department of Education, 21st Century Learning Center grants in the amount of \$1,700,000 for five years that would begin July 1. Through a subcontract with the district, WSOS would operate an after-school program for 108 children from kindergarten through sixth grade, and a high school program serving 100 youth.

"We just believe after-school programs are a vital source in the community," Huntley said.

Goals of these programs are: a safe supervised learning environment to increase students' academic skills, promote mental and physical wellness, provide snacks, recreation, career development, life skills training, character education, cultural programs and community service activities.

Laurie Godfrey, director of curriculum assessment and staff development, with Fremont City Schools, said while they are trying to replace the one grant which is expiring, the other grant to serve high school students would be more about project-based learning.

"We would like to do a lot with technology," Godfrey said.

One idea for project-based learning is a program called FIRST, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. The program focuses on building robotics with a mentor and then going on to competitions.

Clyde-Green Springs School District is applying for the grant in the amount of \$850,000 for five years that would begin July 1. Through a subcontract with the district, WSOS would operate a summer and after-school program serving 80 youth from sixth to eighth grades. Clyde-Green Springs received their first grant in 2003

Fostoria Community School District is also applying for \$850,000 for five years that would begin July 1. WSOS would operate the summer and after-school program for 75 children from kindergarten through third grade. The district received its first grant in 2006.

"It's important to give students a place to go after school for activities rather than being alone," Godfrey said, noting the five-year initiatives are funded less each year.

WSOS also is applying in partnership with Fremont City Schools for an Ohio Department of Education, Even Start Family Literacy grant in the amount of \$351,500.

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