

ADE DAILY NEWS CLIPS

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Cedarville, Waldron Receive Wellness Center Grants (Southwest Times Record)

Cedarville and Waldron school districts are among seven more Arkansas public school districts to receive grants to establish school-based wellness centers, bringing the state's total to 21.

The more than \$1 million in Arkansas Department of Education grants is funded through the Act 180 of 2009 Tobacco Excise Tax. On Tuesday, ADE announced the grants to Cedarville Elementary School and Waldron Middle School.

Each district will receive \$150,000 during the first year of the five-year grant, and the award amounts will decrease each year thereafter, according to ADE. The funding is to help them implement a school-based health center in the 2013-14 school year.

The grant program is offered through ADE's Office of Coordinated School Health with the Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Medicaid in the Schools. Program officials chose the seven schools as key settings for providing quality health programs and services to students, staff and families.

Cedarville Superintendent Dan Foreman said the grant selection committee found tremendous support for the proposed center among community residents and officials.

Jeri Clark, Office of Coordinated School Health grants manager, lauded the districts for their hard preparation work.

"I believe the students and families who utilize these centers are the true winners as they will be afforded the opportunity to easily access preventive care and ultimately enhance their opportunity to succeed academically," Clark said.

Waldron interim Superintendent Barbara Wood said Waldron's center will be open to students, school staff and the community. The district learned by letter Tuesday that it had received the \$500,000 overall grant, Wood said.

Wood said school officials pursued the idea of a school-based clinic for several reasons, including a physician shortage in Scott County and easier access to health care for students. Students will be seen regardless of ability to pay; that is a grant condition, she said.

"We will not turn any children away," Foreman said.

Wood said the district partnered with Mercy Clinic as the center's health care provider. Mercy operates a rural hospital and a family medicine clinic at Waldron.

Foreman said Mercy is also Cedarville's health care partner. Agreements are being finalized with a dentist, optometrist and mental health service provider, he said. Each provider will help design its office space within clinic space in Cedarville Elementary School, Foreman said.

Four of the six classrooms extending east past the elementary gymnasium will be allocated to the Wellness Center, Foreman said. Oct. 1 is its target opening date.

Waldron district officials hope to lease an empty building formerly used by the late Dr. Walter "Russell" Young. It sits directly across from the Middle School, next to a Sparks medical clinic and near a dentist office, Wood said. Some renovation would be needed, she said.

In its first year the Cedarville center will serve students and staff. In its second year, Foreman said, plans are to open it to senior citizens.

The School-Based Health Center Initiative offers three main components:

- Clinical services through a qualified health provider such as a hospital, community health center or medical practice.
- A mental health program.
- Needs-based education outreach through implementation of the eight components that are the focus of Coordinated School Health.

According to Coordinated School Health, those components are physical health, mental health, nutrition, physical education, health education, healthy school environment, parental involvement and school staff wellness.

The announcement came on the heels of the Mansfield School District's construction kickoff event this week for Mansfield's full-time Wellness Center. That center is expected to open by Sept. 1. In January 2011, the Lavaca School District opened its Wellness Center. Paris School District opened one in September 2011, and Magazine opened one in December 2011.

Other schools to receive the grants are Washington Middle School, El Dorado School District; Franklin Elementary School, Little Rock School District; Siloam Springs Intermediate School; Gene George Elementary School, Springdale School District; and Yellville-Summit Elementary School.

DCSD, MSD gear up for School Choice deadline (Advanced Monticellonian)

The Public School Choice Act of 2013, which went into effect April 16, requires all students who plan to apply for school choice in a nonresident district do so no later than June 1.

The Public School Choice Act of 2013 enables any student to attend a school in a district in which the student does not reside. In order to participate in School Choice the student's parent or guardian must submit an application to the district no later than June 01, 2013 for a child to be able to enroll for the fall semester.

Monticello Superintendent Bobby Harper said moving the date up one month from the originally set date of July 1 is part of the new law that he believes will have the most impact on the Monticello School District.

"We have parents coming in here after July 1 saying they didn't know they had to sign the form by July 1," Harper said. "At that point, there's nothing we can do. So it's important that everyone know that date has been moved to June 1 because after June 1, there won't be anything we can do."

He said after June 1, the school cannot allow a non-resident student (or a student living outside of district boundaries) to apply for school choice.

"It's the law," Harper said. "We have to follow the law."

According to the Act, a non-resident district may reserve the right to accept and reject applicants based on capacity of programs, class, grade level, or school building. Likewise, a nonresident district's standards may provide for the rejection of an applicant based upon the submission of false or misleading information which directly impacts the legal qualifications of an applicant to transfer pursuant to the School Choice Act.

Enforced by the Arkansas Department of Education the schools must notify the parents and resident district of the acceptance or denial of a school choice application by Aug. 1.

Another new aspect of the law is the limits it puts on the number of students schools can lose due to freedom of choice.

"School districts can only lose three percent of it's total population each year due to school choice," Harper said.

According to the ADE, Drew Central can lose no more than 28 students to school choice, and Monticello can lose no more than 64.

"If our district loses one student to Drew Central and Drew Central loses one to us, that's an even swap, and we're not penalized," Harper said. "But if one of our students go to Drew Central, and no

Drew Central students come here, that is one counted against the 64 we can lose under the school choice law.”

Harper said it’s been his experience that the three percent won’t harm either district in Drew County because the districts usually swap the same amount of kids.

“It’s usually just a wash,” Harper said. “We usually lose as many students to Drew Central as we gain from them so it’s even. It’s when we start losing and stop gaining that’s the problem.”

Still Harper says having the a limitation on the number of students who can move to a nonresident district through school choice is new to the state.

While the new law is already in affect, Harper said that students who are already attending school through the Public School Choice Act of 1989 can continue to do so without applying again.

“When a student applies for school choice, it includes the whole family so students who have younger siblings who haven’t started school yet won’t count in that three percent,” Harper said.

Drew Central Superintendent Mike Johnston said his district received notice in late April like all the other schools in the state, and they are working to meet the requirements.

“We need to make sure everyone knows that the date has been moved to June 1, and that after that date, students cannot apply for school choice,” Johnston said. “We are going to have to keep up with the number of students who apply for school choice, and where their resident district is in order to make sure we are in compliance with the law.”

Cave City Student Handed Punishment after Attack of Disabled Teen (KARK, Channel 4)

Video available at http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=661162

CAVE CITY, AR -- A teen accused of attacking a blind student on video while at school appeared in a juvenile court on Wednesday.

After the victim's mother fought for charges to be pressed, the teen entered a plea of "true" in the juvenile court and was given probation until he turns 18 years old.

The teen will also have to pay medical costs to the family.

LRSD Begins Installation of Magnetic Doors (KARK, Channel 4)

Video available at http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=661262

LITTLE ROCK, AR-- Four and a half months after the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, magnetic doors are going inside Little Rock schools. The installation process has begun inside elementary schools.

The doors will eventually be on all campuses by the start of next school term.

Once complete, visitors must ring a door bell and the secretary views the person on a monitor, deciding whether to allow them to enter.

Thursday, technicians were at Bale Elementary. The doors are welcomed by the principal.

"We are in an area where we have several people walking throughout the day and it makes me feel safer to know our doors are locked and we have to give the public access to enter the building," said Dr. Ericka McCarroll.

School leaders say the installation process will cost about \$300,000 and they hope to complete two campuses at a time.

Security director Bobby Jones says upgrades are always under review.

"Some of them, like the power locking devices, we don't mind talking about. There are other things we do covertly, which we don't discuss," said Jones.

School leaders ask parents to be patient because like any new program, there will be issues to resolve.

2 Girls Killed in Arkadelphia Homicide Honored at Former School (KARK, Channel 4)

Video available at http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=661272

The Arkadelphia and surrounding communities came together to honor the victims of a triple homicide that continues to rattle the town.

In front of a library full of family, friends, and the local Girls Scouts, Perritt Primary in Arkadelphia unveiled the remodeled reading corner of their library Thursday (5/9) night.

They dedicate the area to the memory of Adiele and Marley Crutchfield, the two Perritt students police say were murdered inside their Arkadelphia home.

"My granddaughters would be so proud," said Suzette Crutchfield.

Crutchfield, the girls grandmother, along with friends and relatives helped fund the project completed by a Girl Scout, Sierra Westberg.

"To have it here in the library where everyone could appreciate it was nice," Westberg said.

She spent hours taking drawings and poems directly from Adiele and Marley's journals painting them up on the walls and even copying the girls' handwriting.

"I was very honored," Westberg said. "It was a special thing we could do. Just a small thing for them to be remembered by."

The memorial ensures they'll be remembered for more than the way they left this world.

Along with their stepfather, the girls were victims in a triple homicide at their home in December.

It continues to stun those who knew and loved them the most.

"It is... It is the worst thing you'll ever live through. But you will live through it with God's help," Crutchfield said. "We've made it through with the prayers and love of the communities."