



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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NEWS RELEASE

May 7, 2013

SEVEN SCHOOL DISTRICTS RECEIVE GRANTS FOR SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS

(LITTLE ROCK) -- Seven Arkansas school districts recently received grant funds totaling over \$1 million to implement a school-based health center in their district for the 2013-14 school year. Each district will receive \$150,000 during the first year of the five-year grant. The grant award amounts will decrease each year thereafter.

The grants, made possible with monies from Act 180 of 2009, were awarded by the Arkansas Department of Education's Office of Coordinated School Health in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and Arkansas Medicaid in the Schools (ARMITS). The seven school campuses were identified as key settings for providing quality health programs and services to students, staff and families.

The schools and school districts are: Cedarville Elementary School, Cedarville School District; Washington Middle School, El Dorado School District; Franklin Elementary School, Little Rock School District; Siloam Springs Intermediate School, Siloam Springs School District; Gene George Elementary School, Springdale School District; Waldron Middle School, Waldron School District; and Yellville-Summit Elementary School, Yellville-Summit School District.

With the addition of the seven new sites, Arkansas now has a total of 21 school-based health centers.

The School Based Health Center Initiative offers three main components:

1. Provide clinical services through a qualified health provider such as a hospital, community health center, or medical practice;
2. Establish a mental health program based on the Arkansas Department of Education School Based Mental Health Best Practices Manual; and
3. Provide students, families, and community with education outreach based on needs through implementation of the eight-component model of Coordinated School Health to improve academic achievement, school health programs, and community support.

"It is exciting to have the opportunity to increase the number of school based health centers operating in our state," said Jeri Clark, grants manager for ADE's Office of Coordinated School Health. "These school districts have worked very hard in preparing for the implementation of a center. 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."