The applicant assures the Illinois State Board of Education that:

1. each such program will be administered in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications;

2. (A) the control of funds provided under each such program and title to property acquired with program funds will be in a public agency or in a nonprofit private agency, institution, organization, or Indian tribe, if the law authorizing the program provides for assistance to those entities; and

(B) the public agency, nonprofit private agency, institution, organization, or Indian tribe will administer the funds and property to the extent required by the authorizing statutes;

3. the applicant will adopt and use proper methods of administering each such program, including —

(A) the enforcement of any obligations imposed by law on agencies, institutions, organizations, and other recipients responsible for carrying out each program; and

(B) the correction of deficiencies in program operations that are identified through audits, monitoring, or evaluation;

4. the applicant will cooperate in carrying out any evaluation of each such program conducted by or for the State educational agency, the Secretary, or other Federal officials;

5. the applicant will use such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid to the applicant under each such program;

6. the applicant will —

(A) submit such reports to the Illinois State Board of Education (which shall make the reports available to the Governor) and the Secretary as the State educational agency and Secretary may require to enable the State educational agency and the Secretary to perform their duties under each such program; and

(B) maintain such records, provide such information, and afford such access to the records as the Illinois State Board of Education (after consultation with the Governor) or the Secretary may reasonably require to carry out the State educational agency's or the Secretary's duties; and

7. before the application was submitted, the applicant afforded a reasonable opportunity for public comment on the application and considered such comment.

The board-authorized representative understands the assurances and the responsibilities for compliance placed upon the applicant by the assurances. The applicant will refund directly to ISBE any funds made available to the applicant that may be determined by ISBE or an auditor or evaluator representing ISBE to have been misspent or misapplied.

A. APPLICANT SIGNATURE(S) (Prior to submission of this application, please review the requirements to receive the competitive priority.)

1. Joliet Public Schools District 86
   Name and Number of School District
   [Signature]
   [Date]

2. The Education-To-Careers Partnership for the JJC Region
   Community Organization
   [Signature]
   [Date]

B. FISCAL AGENT (Fiscal agent is responsible for submitting budgets, amendments, expenditure reports, paying bills, etc.)

1. Will County Regional Office of Education
   School District Name and Number of Community Partner Name or Regional Office of Education Name
   [Signature]
   [Date]
FY 2008 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS PROGRAM SUMMARY

A. APPLICANT NAME(S) Will County Regional Office of Education (Fiscal Agent), The Education-To-Careers Partnership for the Joliet Junior College Region (501c3 Non-Profit Community Organization), and Joliet Public Schools District 86 (School District)

B. Applicant has fulfilled all the following requirements and is eligible for the additional 25 point competitive priority:

- [ ] Yes Proposes to serve only schools that are at 40% or greater poverty or those eligible for Title 1 schoolwide status; and
- [ ] Yes Has submitted a joint application (see RFP for specific requirements); and
- [ ] Yes Proposes to serve only schools in need of improvement (schools in Title 1 school improvement status) or schools in the state's Academic Early Warning Status or Academic Watch Status.

C. TOTAL FY 2008 21ST CENTURY FUNDS REQUESTED $866,435

D. TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPOSED AFTER-SCHOOL SITES 6 (six)

E. TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOL DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS 7 (seven)

F. PROVIDE ALL PARTNER INFORMATION BELOW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner Name</th>
<th>Dollar Value of Cash or In-Kind Services for FY2008</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joliet Public Schools District 86</td>
<td>$233,400 In-Kind/Rooms, Snacks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Will County Regional Office of Education</td>
<td>$7,200 In-Kind/Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Education-To-Careers Partnership for the Joliet Junior College Region</td>
<td>$6,000 In-Kind/Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Herald News</td>
<td>$2,400 In-Kind/Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joliet Police Department</td>
<td>$5,300 In-Kind/Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Community Public Art (FCPA)</td>
<td>$4,300 In-Kind/Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three Rivers Education Partnership (TREP)</td>
<td>$2,700 In-Kind/Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME AND NUMBER</td>
<td>NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Joliet Public Schools District 86</td>
<td>Edna Keith Elementary School 400 Fourth Avenue Joliet, IL 60433</td>
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<td>Early Warning</td>
<td>Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 - 4</td>
<td>608</td>
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**FY 2008 21st Century Community Learning Centers After-School Sites and Schools**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete Attachment 3 for each proposed after-school site. Use additional pages as needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFTER-SCHOOL SITE #</th>
<th>NAME OF FACILITY</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>CONTACT PERSON</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pershing Elementary School</td>
<td>Pershing Elementary School 251 North Midland Avenue Joliet, IL 60435</td>
<td>Brenda Reiter, Principal</td>
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</table>

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

- **Brenda Reiter, Principal**
- **Pershing Elementary School**
- **251 North Midland Avenue**
- **Joliet, IL 60435**
- **815-725-0986**
- **breiter@joliet86.org**

---

**LIST ALL SCHOOLS WHOSE STUDENTS WILL BE SERVED AT THIS SITE. PROVIDE THE REQUESTED INFORMATION ABOUT EACH SCHOOL.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(4)</th>
<th>(5)</th>
<th>(6)</th>
<th>(7)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME AND NUMBER</td>
<td>NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL</td>
<td>CONTACT INFORMATION (Contact Person, Address, Phone Number, E-Mail)</td>
<td>SCHOOL POVERTY RATE</td>
<td>DEGREE TITLE FUNDED</td>
<td>Sacramento Improvement Index</td>
<td>SCHOOL GRADE</td>
<td>ENROLLMENT</td>
<td>PROJECTED NO. OF 21ST CENTURY AFTER-SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS</td>
<td>GRADES TO BE SERVED BY 21ST CENTURY SCHOOL PROGRAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joliet Public Schools District 86</td>
<td>Pershing Elementary School 251 North Midland Avenue Joliet, IL 60435</td>
<td>Brenda Reiter, Principal Pershing Elementary School 251 North Midland Avenue Joliet, IL 60435 815-725-0986 <a href="mailto:breiter@joliet86.org">breiter@joliet86.org</a></td>
<td>71.8%</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>K-5</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>140</td>
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2.  

3.  

**ISBE 43-44 (11/06) REPRODUCE AS NEEDED**
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<tr>
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<th>NAME OF FACILITY</th>
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<th>CONTACT PERSON</th>
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<td>Dirksen Junior High School</td>
<td>203 South Midland Avenue Joliet, IL 60436</td>
<td>Kimberly Pfoutz, Principal</td>
<td>815-729-1566</td>
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**LIST ALL SCHOOLS WHOSE STUDENTS WILL BE SERVED AT THIS SITE. PROVIDE THE REQUESTED INFORMATION ABOUT EACH SCHOOL.**

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<tr>
<th>(1) SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME AND NUMBER</th>
<th>(2) NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL</th>
<th>(3) CONTACT INFORMATION (Contact Person, Address, Phone Number, E-Mail)</th>
<th>(4) SCHOOL POVERTY RATE</th>
<th>(5) Title I Indicated</th>
<th>(6) Identified for School Improvement</th>
<th>(7) SCHOOL GRADE</th>
<th>(8) ENROLLMENT</th>
<th>(9) PROJECTED NO. OF 21ST CENTURY PARTICIPANTS</th>
<th>(10) GRADES TO BE SERVED BY 21ST CENTURY PROGRAM</th>
<th>(11) STATE ACADEMIC STATUS</th>
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<td>1. Joliet Public Schools District 86</td>
<td>Dirksen Junior High School 203 South Midland Avenue Joliet, IL 60436</td>
<td>Kimberly Pfoutz, Principal Dirksen Junior High School 203 South Midland Avenue Joliet, IL 60436 815-729-1566 <a href="mailto:kpfoutz@joliet86.org">kpfoutz@joliet86.org</a></td>
<td>64.8%</td>
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<td>545</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>6 - 7</td>
<td>Academic Warning</td>
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LIST ALL SCHOOLS WHOSE STUDENTS WILL BE SERVED AT THIS SITE. PROVIDE THE REQUESTED INFORMATION ABOUT EACH SCHOOL.

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<td>CONTACT INFORMATION (Contact Person, Address, Phone Number, E-Mail)</td>
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<td>STATE ACADEMIC STATUS</td>
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<td>Joliet Public Schools District 86</td>
<td>Gompers Junior High School 1501 Copperfield Avenue Joliet, IL 60432</td>
<td>David Negron, Principal Gompers Junior High School 1501 Copperfield Avenue Joliet, IL 60432 815-727-5276 <a href="mailto:dnegron@joliet86.org">dnegron@joliet86.org</a></td>
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<td>2620 Planning, Research, Dev. &amp; Eval. Services</td>
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Received: MAR-5 2007

March 1, 2007

Signature of LEA Superintendent/Agency Official (Fiscal Agent)
Itemize and explain each expenditure amount, including employee benefits. Include descriptions of the anticipated expenditures, correlated to the line items set forth on the Budget Summary (Attachment 7).

Use additional pages as needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNCTION NUMBER</th>
<th>EXPLANATION (Not Expenditure Account Name)</th>
<th>SALARIES</th>
<th>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</th>
<th>PURCHASED SERVICES</th>
<th>SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS</th>
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<td>Administration/Project Director (.5 time) &amp; IMRF Benefits</td>
<td>42500</td>
<td>54500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2520</td>
<td>Fiscal Services (Contractual)</td>
<td>3100</td>
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<tr>
<td>2550</td>
<td>Student Transportation (Contractual)</td>
<td>118,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2900</td>
<td>Joliet Police Security Services (Contractual)</td>
<td>43500</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>387850</td>
<td>67045</td>
<td>346940</td>
<td>64600</td>
<td>866435</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Note - The following costs are not approvable and may not be charged to this grant:
1. Equipment such as computers, laptop computers, printers, scanners, Fax machines, telephones or similar items;
2. Furniture;
3. Snacks, or other food costs;
4. Facility remodeling or renovation costs; and
5. Proposal preparation costs.
the proposed 21st Century Community Learning Centers with great excitement.

Students, parents, teachers, and our community partners in Joliet look forward to the
tips to venues in Joliet, Chicago, and nearby communities.

character education, career awareness, technology, arts, recreational activities, and educational field
academic base of daily instruction in reading and math combined with enrichment activities such as
86 over the past four years. This proven after-school and summer programming features an
the 21st Century Kids Club Program that has served 2,600 students in Joliet Public Schools District
the six proposed 21st Century Community Learning Centers will replicate the success of
other agencies and non-profit organizations.

entire community by including family members of participants and by collaborating with

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers will offer services that benefit the

suspensions and expulsions.

behavioral changes, especially in improved rates of school attendance and reduced

Student participants in the program will demonstrate social benefits and exhibit positive

especially in reading and mathematics.

Student participants in the program will demonstrate increased academic achievement.

Learning Centers in Joliet will address the following objectives:

In accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, the 21st Century Community

high school students per year (3,200 students in 5 years) in Joliet IIHons.

propose six (6) 21st Century Community Learning Centers that will serve 7,000 elementary and junior

Region, Joliet Public Schools District 86, and the Will County Regional Office of Education

as joint applicants, the Education-To-Careers Partnership for the Joliet Junior College

ATTACHMENT 4

FY 2000 Proposal Abstract
PROGRAM
21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS
21st Century Community Learning Centers Program

FY 2008 Proposal Narrative

Need for 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Joliet, Illinois has a great need for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC) after-school and summer programs that will reach an eligible population of students in grades 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7. The process for determining the need for 21CCLC services included a review of demographic and community data, a community strategic planning consortium, and specific indicators at the six (6) schools that are proposed as the program sites.

The regional setting and demographic data in the Joliet area are general indicators of the community need for 21st Century Community Learning Centers. The east side and near west side of Joliet, Illinois are older urban areas that are surrounded by newer suburban areas in Will County. According to the 2000 United States Census figures, Will County was the second fastest growing county in the greater metro Chicago region between 1990 and 2000 (40.6%), while the city of Joliet grew very slowly over the same period (2.64%). Demographically, Joliet is comprised of a relatively large percentage of low-income households (less than $20,000 annually), with a number of older public housing projects. 18,827 citizens live in "poverty" or "extreme poverty" according to the 2000 Census. The rest of Will County is comprised of a relatively high percentage of households of medium and above income ($50,000 - $74,000 annually).

The grade K-8 public schools in Joliet reflect many of the social issues that are commonly associated with low-income urban areas. Superintendent of Joliet Public Schools District 86, Dr. Phyllis Wilson, has sponsored an on-going dialogue and strategic planning initiative with the public and private community agencies in Joliet. The overall goal is to improve the home, community, and academic lives of the students in the school district. The
initiative began when Dr. Wilson was approached by several of the school principals in District 86, who were frustrated that the home and community lives of many of their students were interfering with the children’s ability to learn and achieve in the classroom. Students were facing such problems as lack of sleep, poor nutrition, substance abuse in the family or neighborhood, and a general absence of home and community environments that value education and enrichment activities. These problems are magnified when a significant number of students return home after school to a non-adult-supervised setting, do not participate in organized after-school activities, and feel angry, alone or isolated.

Dr. Wilson's strategic planning consortium identified a number of key strategies for Joliet Public Schools District 86 that will be addressed by the 21st Century Community Learning Centers proposed in this grant (Source: Joliet Public Schools District 86 Partnership Project):

- “Create after-school programs using existing facilities.”
- “Develop and implement programs to assist students to set and reach goals (e.g. personal, academic, career, etc.)”
- “Identify and teach job-related skills (e.g. social skills, teamwork, workplace attitudes, and technical skills) by working together with high schools and colleges.”
- “Teach families to feel that education is important.”
- “Develop and implement a curriculum that has relevance to at-risk children and their families.”
- “Develop and foster positive parent-teacher relationships.”

The Joliet Public Schools District 86 Partnership Project also identified a number of gaps in existing services and resources, that will be addressed by the proposed 21st Century Community Learning Centers:

- “Funding for after-school programs.”
• “After-school programs that meet state learning standards.”
• “School as Community Center.”
• “Character building.”
• “Parent involvement, responsibility, and resolution.”
• “Partner with community organizations to offer programming.”
• “Career outreach programs.”
• “Partnerships with businesses and field trips to businesses.”

The Joliet Public Schools District 86 Partnership Project identified these gaps and developed the aforementioned strategies using a concept mapping process, which was facilitated by Dr. Thomas Grayson from the University of Illinois. The process took place over a period of several months and included educators, parents, business people, and community service agencies.

The following six (6) schools are proposed as the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and all meet the criteria that identify them as high-priority for funding by the FY2008 21CCLC Request for Proposals (RFP). Please see Attachment 3 for more details, including the number of students to be served at each location.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Proposed Grade Levels</th>
<th>School Poverty Rate</th>
<th>State Academic Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edna Keith Elementary</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>95.7%</td>
<td>Academic Warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynne Thigpen Elementary</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>66.8%</td>
<td>Early Warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pershing Elementary</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>71.8%</td>
<td>Early Warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sator Sanchez Elementary</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>93.4%</td>
<td>Early Warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dirksen Junior High</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>64.8%</td>
<td>Academic Warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gompers Junior High</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>85.6%</td>
<td>Academic Warning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the state academic status (above), which is based on the annual Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), all six schools receive Title I funding, are identified for
Title I School Improvement, and are submitting this proposal in joint application with the Education-To-Careers Partnership for the Joliet Junior College Region, a 501c3 non-profit organization, and the Will County Regional Office of Education.

Program Recruitment and Retention of Students

The students that are most in need of academic services will be referred by their classroom teachers based on the students’ performance on ISAT achievement tests and other Illinois Learning Standards aligned testing instruments that are implemented by District 86 throughout the school year. The next step will be to seek parent/guardian permission for the students to attend the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. At the same time, parents/guardians will be recruited for involvement in the family programs. This process will be accomplished by sending written program information and permission slips home with students, as well as any necessary telephone or face-to-face follow up. One of our community partners, The Herald News will publish announcements and program information in our daily Joliet community newspaper to provide public access and information on the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.

Students will also be recruited for the 21st Century program from private schools that operate within the geographical boundaries of the six proposed 21CCLC school locations. Joliet Public Schools District 86 has a long-established relationship with the private schools in the Joliet community and will guide the process of recruiting private school students.

Student retention will be guided by our attendance requirement of 90% and students who want to be part of a program mixes academic tutoring with activities that are “fun.” Positive word-of-mouth advertising takes place in the community when a program is producing strong outcomes and features relevant and enjoyable activities. This has been the case over the past four years with our 21st Century Kids Club program. Participation in the program has
become very sought-after by both students and parents. Whenever a student happens to drop from the program, there are several students eagerly waiting to fill the available opening.

Activities and Services to be Offered

Our 21st Century Community Learning Centers proposal will address the needs of the community and the students at the six proposed sites that were discussed at the beginning of this narrative. We will provide daily tutoring in reading and math, homework help, character education, career awareness, academic enrichment activities, and educational field trips that include parents. In addition, parents will be invited to four open house events per year and will be kept informed of program activities though weekly newsletters that are written in both English and Spanish. Newsletters will also offer tips to parents on working with their children at home, such as reading aloud in the evening.

These activities and services will be held 12.5 hours per week (2.5 hours per day Monday through Friday) at each of the 21st Century Community Learning Center school buildings on a schedule that corresponds with the school calendar, including the summer school schedule. 21CCLC will be open 27 weeks during the school year and 4 weeks in the summer. No fees will be charged for the student or family participants, with all expenses covered by the 21CCLC grant and in-kind services provided by community partners.

Student safety will be a top priority at the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Bus transportation will be provided for the after-school program to return each student safely to his or her home at the end of the day. On field trip Saturdays, some students will be dropped off and picked up by parents or guardians, but bus transportation will be provided for all students who need it. The Joliet Police Department, which has a close working relationship with Joliet Public Schools District 86, will have a visible presence in and around the centers and in the corresponding neighborhoods when students are traveling to and from the centers.
Academic remediation and tutoring services will be provided daily to all participating students. A variety of curriculum resources will be used, including proven computer software and internet-based programs that offer the added advantage of integrating technology into the process. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers will utilize applications that are interactive and hands-on to the greatest extent possible. This will be discussed in more detail in the next section of this proposal, “Improving Student Academic Achievement.”

All 21st Century students will participate in weekly character education sessions that will help them choose appropriate behaviors, interact with their peers in a positive way, and work together as a team. Our elementary students will combine their character education lessons with “healthy play” activities that are based on the book Learning to Play, Playing to Learn by Steffens and Gorin.

Weekly career awareness and career exploration sessions will be an important component of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers programming. Students will see the career possibilities that await them in the future, thereby exciting their interest in the academics that are needed to attain those future dreams. We have seen this demonstrated for the past nine years with our regional Education-To-Careers program, as well as over the past four years with the 21st Century Kids Club program.

Technology, arts, and recreational enrichment activities will be provided for all student participants. Our community partner TREP has the Afternoon Scholars program. This offers science and technology-based classes such as The World Under Water, The Night Sky, and Hands-On Science, which spark students’ interest in the world around them.

Our Pitsco science curriculum offers popular and highly effective academic enrichment activities. Students work in teams of four and each have a specific responsibility to accomplish a science “mission.” Pitsco science teachers interact with the students as “facilitators” and
encourage them to try to work out their questions among the team members.

Another community partner, Friends of Community Public Art, offers weekly art classes. These hands-on classes will be an important feature of the proposed 21CCLC program. 21st Century teachers and Site Coordinators have reported that some students, who seem to be struggling in all other areas of their lives, have been energized by the art classes.

Each nine-week session (fall, winter, spring), students will take three Friday afternoon field trips and one Saturday field trip to the many educational and recreational venues in the Joliet region and the Chicago metro area. This has been a highlight of our 21st Century Kids Club programs over the past four years, with one parent remarking, “My child has now been to more interesting places than I have.” Parents are encouraged and welcomed to join their children on these field trips.

Daily and weekly scheduling of the proposed 21CCLC sites will be as follows:

- **School Year Scheduling**

  **After-School Program: Monday - Friday**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:00 - 3:15 PM</td>
<td>Nutritious Snack (provided by District 86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 - 4:00</td>
<td>Tutoring in reading, homework completion (daily)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 - 4:45</td>
<td>Character education, career awareness, Afternoon Scholars, technology, art, recreation (each activity once a week on a specific day, e.g. art on Mondays)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:45 - 5:30</td>
<td>Tutoring in math, Pitsco science missions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  **Field Trips:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:00 - 5:30 PM</td>
<td>Three Fridays per 9-week session, field trips to educational/recreational venues in the Joliet region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 AM - 2 PM</td>
<td>One Saturday per 9-week session, field trip to educational/recreational venue in Chicago metro area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Summer Scheduling

Summer Program: Monday - Thursday

8:30 - 9:30 AM  Tutoring in reading (daily)

9:30 - 10:30  Character education, career awareness, Afternoon Scholars, technology, art, recreation (each activity once a week on a specific day, e.g. art on Mondays)

10:30 - 11:30  Tutoring in math, Pitsco science missions

Summer Program: Friday

8:30 - 11:30 AM  Field trip to educational/recreational venue in the Joliet region.

Improving Student Academic Achievement

There is a great deal of research that shows a direct linkage between after-school programs and improved student academic achievement. This research supports the academic improvements that we have documented with our 21st Century Kids Club students over the past four years (see “Previous Successful After-School Program Experience”). We offer excellent student to teacher ratios, with one teacher for every 10 students, and one paraprofessional for every 20 students. This individual attention provides each student with the best opportunity to improve his or her academic achievement.

According to Jill Posner and Deborah Lowe Vandell in Low-Income Children’s After-School Care: Are There Beneficial Effects of After-School Programs?, “Students in after-school programs show better achievement in math, reading, and other subjects.” As detailed in The McPrep Lighthouse Program, “Of the 40 schools involved in the Chicago Lighthouse Program, a citywide after-school program run by the Chicago Public Schools, 30 schools showed achievement gains in average reading scores and 39 schools showed gains in average mathematics scores.”
Over the past nine years, the Education-To-Careers Partnership for the Joliet Junior College Region has found that students who are involved in learning that integrates academics with "the real world" tend to be more motivated and to improve their academic achievement. Research by Margaret A. Harkins, *Using literature to establish career concepts in early childhood* (The Reading Teacher, v.55 no.1, Sept. 2001) and *Career education in the primary grades: building work-readiness through an experiential curriculum*" (Childhood Education, v.76 no.4, Summer 2000) supports the observations of our Education-To-Careers Partnership:

"Learning about oneself fosters appreciation of personal talents and awareness of jobs that utilize those abilities."

"Expanding academic and work-related skills includes both educational basics and proficiencies like problem solving, decision making, and communications."

"Although learning about jobs does require the gathering of information, the process also involves self-discovery. Developing academic competencies and good habits enhances children's self-esteem, while understanding equity issues proceeds from their emerging empathy toward others."

"Tomorrow's workers will need new skills and aptitudes - competencies that emphasize collaboration and the ability to solve complex problems (Abbot, 1995)."

This integration of academics with "real world" applications will be an aspect of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program in Joliet that will set it apart from many other after-school programs. Resources that have been successfully employed by Education-To-Careers in the Joliet region over the past nine years will be a key component in the improvement of academic achievement for the student participants from Joliet Public Schools District 86. When combined with core academic subjects, activities such as interest assessments and career exploration provide students with clear connections between their lessons in the classroom and their future opportunities in the world of work. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers will utilize lesson plans that connect core academic subjects with career exploration, skills that are needed in the workplace (such as teamwork, problem-solving, and communication skills), and the
Management Plan

The Education-To-Careers Partnership for the Joliet Junior College Region (ETC) will provide full-time project management and will administer the six proposed 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Our fiscal agent and joint applicant, the Will County Regional Office of Education (Will ROE), will administer the financial aspects of the 21CCLC program.

For the past four years, ETC and the Will ROE have managed two 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants (funded in February 2003 and July 2004) with great success. We will continue to use the same management principles and will continue to fill the identified needs and gaps in services developed by the Joliet Public Schools District 86 Partnership Project.

The 21st Century Project Director will provide overall project leadership and will communicate directly with both our community partners and the Site Coordinators at the six 21CCLC locations. Each Site Coordinator will be chosen for his/her leadership ability, teaching skills, and enthusiasm for the program. Typically, the Site Coordinator will be a lead teacher, who has worked with other after-school programs in the past.

Each of the six Site Coordinators will supervise the daily operation of the 21CCLC program at his/her school location. The Site Coordinators will provide direction for the certified teachers, paraprofessionals, students, and the community partners that provide enrichment activities.

Our joint applicants and community partners will contribute to the proposed 21st Century Community Learning Centers program as follows:

- Joliet Public Schools District 86 will provide the curriculum and personnel for daily
tutoring in reading, math, writing, and science. The District 86 Curriculum and Instruction Department will ensure that the tutoring and testing will be guided by the Illinois Learning Standards. Character education/anger management sessions will also be provided by Joliet Public Schools District 86, using their character education curriculum and instructors.

- Other existing resources that will be utilized are in-kind services of the Will County Regional Office of Education. The Will ROE will provide bookkeeping and accounts payable services, as well as specialized training through the ROE Professional Development Alliance.

- Career awareness and career exploration activities will be provided by career consultants from the Education-To-Careers Partnership, who have motivated 21st Century students over the past four years to see the possibilities that lie in their futures. The ETC Partnership will also call upon its many business and community partners to serve as classroom speakers, mentors, and to provide opportunities for field trips.

- Friends of Community Public Art (FCPA) will guide 21st Century Kids Club students in weekly art classes. These hands-on classes have become a favorite of students at our existing 21st Century Community Learning Centers, as they have experienced a wide variety of art themes and art media.

- Three Rivers Education Partnership (TREP) will offer educational enrichment sessions with their Afternoon Scholars program. The Afternoon Scholars program includes classes in science, technology, local history and culture, drama, and dance. TREP also partners with the Will County Health Department to provide classes in nutrition, physical activity education, life skills, and tobacco/substance abuse
prevention.

- Joliet Police Department “Safe Officers” will participate in student activities at each school and ensure safe passage for students in the evening, when the after-school sessions end for the day. Joliet Police Officers have been an important component of the 21st Century Kids Club for the past four years and will continue to partner with us for the six proposed 21CCLC programs.

- *The Herald News*, Joliet’s daily newspaper, will publish program announcements, details of implementation, and continuous status reports in both news and feature coverage formats. Larry Randa, Publisher of *The Herald News*, is a strong supporter of education and community collaboration in the Joliet area.

Each of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers will make use of existing resources by using Joliet Public Schools District 86 school buildings, equipment, teachers and staff. Working families will benefit from the after-school and summer hours for students, as well as the Saturday field trips and summer session services for both students and parents. This 21CCLC proposal will serve 700 students and 400 parents/family members per year.

Based on award notification in spring or summer 2007, the program calendar for FY2008 will flow as follows:

**July 2007**
- Meet with building principals to plan program and scheduling.
- Meet with service providers to plan activities and scheduling.
- Recruit and hire Site Coordinators, teachers, and paraprofessionals.
- Recruit students and families for program.

**August**
- Begin training for Site Coordinators, teachers, and paraprofessionals.
- Purchase program materials.
September  - Arrange transportation and Joliet Police scheduling.
   - Begin after-school program September 17, 2007 (runs 9 weeks).

October   - After-school program continues.

   - Meet with Site Coordinators to collect data and evaluations on Fall Session program.

December - Adjust Winter Session program based on Fall Session data and feedback.


February - Winter Session continues.

   - Meet with Site Coordinators to collect data and evaluations on Winter Session program.
   - Adjust Spring Session based on Winter Session data and feedback.
   - Begin Spring Session program March 10, 2008 (runs 9 weeks).

April     - Spring Session continues.

May       - Spring Session ends May 16, 2008.
   - Meet with Site Coordinators to collect data and evaluations on Spring Session program and federal 21CCLC Annual Performance Report (APR) data for 2007 – 2008 fiscal year.

June      - Adjust Summer Session based on Spring Session data and feedback.
   - Summer Session begins June 17, 2008 (runs 4 weeks).

July      - Summer Session ends July 11, 2008.
   - Meet with Site Coordinators to collect data and evaluations on Summer Session program.
A similar schedule will repeat for each of the following fiscal years FY2009 – FY2012.

Coordination of Funding

The Education-To-Careers Partnership for the Joliet Junior College Region, Joliet Public Schools District 86, and the Will County Regional Office of Education will leverage their existing federal, state, and local funding to make the most effective use of public resources. As the lead agency in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, the Education-To-Careers Partnership and its fiscal agent, the Will County Regional Office of Education, are strategically situated in the Joliet region to offer excellent coordination of funding and in-kind services from their many business, labor, governmental, and community partners.

The Will County Regional Office of Education (ROE) oversees the Regional Safe Schools Program, truancy, GED services, and teacher certification and development. These ROE services will be coordinated with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Other partners in this grant proposal receive public and private funding, including the Joliet Police Department, Three Rivers Education Partnership, and Friends of Community Public Art.

Joliet Public Schools District 86 is a recipient of Title I funding. Title I staff at the district office and at each of the school sites will support and participate in the design and implementation of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

The Joliet Police Department receives federal funding for “Safe Officers” that serve many school buildings in Joliet Public Schools District 86. The Safe Officers conduct D.A.R.E. programming, demonstrate the “human element” of law enforcement through positive interaction with students and families, and provide a visible police presence to those individuals who may threaten the security of students, school staff, or local community members.
Principles of Effectiveness

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program in Joliet will meet the principles of effectiveness that were identified in the authorizing statute. These principles of effectiveness are the guiding elements in identifying and implementing 21st Century Community Learning Centers programs and activities in Joliet that will directly enhance student learning.

One principle of effectiveness is that the activities of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers must be continuously evaluated using performance measures. Tutoring activities will lead to higher student academic achievement, as measured by the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and standards-based pre-tests and post-tests administered at the beginning and end of each 9-week session. Career exploration and hands-on learning will lead to increased student involvement in school activities, as measured by attendance rates and by student and parent surveys. Character education that teaches anger management and coping skills will result in positive student behavioral changes, as measured by reduced instances of student violence, suspensions, and expulsions. Activities that involve parents will lead to more families that feel education is important and more positive parent-teacher relationships, as measured by parent satisfaction surveys.

Another principle of effectiveness is that 21st Century Community Learning Center activities be based on scientific research, if appropriate. The scientific principle of rigorous data analysis will be applied to measures of student academic achievement, especially in reading and mathematics. ISAT test scores for participating 21CCLC students will be compared to the ISAT test scores for all students in the same corresponding grade levels at each 21CCLC school and also in the school district as a whole. By making this comparison, scientific conclusions may be drawn regarding the effectiveness of 21CCLC tutoring activities in raising academic achievement. In the same way, data regarding 21CCLC student involvement in school
activities, and instances of student violence, suspensions, and expulsions will be compared to
data from control groups of students who were not involved in the program and activities. This
will be measured quantitatively by collecting school attendance, suspension, and expulsion data
and comparing the year prior to the 21CCLC program to each successive year after the program
has begun.

Partnership Between Agencies

As described above, in “Coordination of Funding,” The Education-To-Careers Partnership for The Joliet Junior College Region (a community-based non-profit 501c3 organization), Joliet Public Schools District 86 (a local educational agency), and the Will County Regional Office of Education (another public entity) have worked in general partnership together for the past nine years and have partnered closely over the past four years on the 21st Century Kids Club. The successes of the 21st Century Kids Club reflect the ability of our agencies to work in partnership.

When Dr. Wilson convened the Joliet Public School District 86 Partnership, as described in “Need for 21st Century Community Learning Centers,” both Education-To-Careers (ETC) and the Will County Regional Office of Education were key members of the consortium. The Will County Regional Superintendent of Schools, a publicly elected official, is a member of the ETC Board of Directors and has been a guiding force behind the success of Education-To-Careers in the Joliet Junior College Region.

Other members of the Joliet Public Schools District 86 Partnership are the Joliet Police Department, Three Rivers Education Partnership, Friends of Community Public Art, and The Herald News. These partners have all offered their enthusiastic support as well as valuable in-kind services to the proposed 21st Century Community Learning Centers.
Previous Successful After-School Program Experience

Over the past four years, the Education-To-Careers Partnership, Joliet Public Schools District 86, and the Will County ROE have operated the highly successful 21st Century Kids Club program at six schools in Joliet. This program has been successful on many levels, which include improved student academic performance, improved student social skills and behavior, and increased parental involvement and satisfaction.

The most impressive result of our 21st Century Kids Club activities is that two schools that we have been serving since FY2003 have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years and have been removed from the ISBE academic watch list. The principals of those two schools have credited our 21st Century Community Learning Centers as being significant factors in their schools attaining AYP.

In addition to measuring student achievement with the annual Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), 21st Century Kids Club has administered reading and math pre-tests and post-tests at the beginning and end of each 9-week session (in the fall, winter, and spring each school year). The results of this testing are illustrated on page 18 of this narrative. Over a three-year period from fall 2003 to spring 2006, average reading scores have increased 8.2% each nine weeks, with an increase as high as 11.2% in winter 2006. Over the same period, average math scores have increased 12.1% each nine weeks, with one increase as high as 17.6% in winter 2005. Clearly, our reading and math tutoring program works. We plan to continue these successful tutoring strategies for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers proposed for the next five years.

Parent surveys, which are completed by as many as 96% of our parents in each 9-week session, have also indicated improved student academics. 95% of parents surveyed said "The 21st Century Kids Club program has helped my child with his/her math skills," and 94% of
9 Week Pre-Test/Post-Test Increases
Grades 3-8 Combined Averages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>3-Year Avg. Increase</th>
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</thead>
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<td>7.2</td>
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<td>17.6</td>
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parents surveyed said “The 21st Century Kids Club program has helped my child with his/her reading skills.”

21st Century Kids Club student behavior and social skills have also improved over the past four years. On our parent surveys, 96% of parents responded “The 21st Century Kids Club has improved my child’s attitude toward school.” 91% of parents responded “The 21st Century Kids Club has helped my child make better decisions in solving his/her problems.”

Additional indicators of the success of the 21st Century Kids Club after-school program are found in parent involvement and satisfaction with the program. On Parent Surveys, 96% of parents responding said, “I would recommend or participate in this program again.” 99% of parents responding said, “My child had fun in the 21st Century Kids Club program.”

Summary

The Education-To-Careers (ETC) Partnership for The Joliet Junior College Region, the Will County Regional Office of Education, and Joliet Public Schools District 86 represent a large and diverse collaboration of committed individuals and agencies in both the public and private sectors. Over the past four years, this consortium has successfully implemented the 21st Century Kids Club, which has targeted students in grades 3 - 8. Due to overwhelming demand from students, parents, teachers, and school principals in the Joliet community, we now wish to offer this successful program to six schools that are in Academic Early Warning and Academic Watch and also to fill a gap in services for 2nd grade students who are eligible for 21st Century Community Learning Centers programming.

In establishing these six 21st Century Community Learning Centers, our consortium will work cooperatively with our community partners to make a positive impact on the students and families of a community that has struggled to overcome conditions of low-income and low academic performance. We will serve 700 students and 400 parents/family members per year.
Over a five-year period, our FY2008 21CCLC grant proposal will serve 3,500 students and 2,000 parents/family members. We wish to see these students become productive citizens in our community. Ultimately, they will become our future workforce, and the economic development of the Joliet region will benefit from their success in school and in life.
The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program will collect both quantitative and qualitative data to be used in both formative and summative program evaluations. Evaluations will apply to the objectives of both the Joliet Public Schools District 86 Partnership Project and the objectives of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers legislation (RFP, Appendix B). Our program evaluations and operations were recently reviewed (February 19, 2007) during 21CCLC site visits by Dr. Penny Billman of Northern Illinois University. Dr. Billman concluded that our evaluations for the past four years have been very organized and effective, to the extent that she could not identify any areas that needed improvement.

Increased academic performance by program participants, especially in reading and math, is a top priority objective and a focal point of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. This will be quantitatively measured by comparing the ISAT test scores for participating 21CCLC students to the ISAT test scores for all students in the same corresponding grade levels in each 21CCLC school and also in the school district as a whole. Test scores in reading and math will also be measured by Illinois Learning Standards aligned pre-tests and post-tests for each 21CCLC grade level conducted every 9-week session throughout the school year. Daytime classroom teachers will provide valuable data on academic performance changes and fall vs. spring reading and math grades on the 21CCLC Profile and Performance Information Collection System (PPICS).

Another priority objective is that participants in the program will demonstrate social benefits and exhibit positive behavioral changes, especially in improved rates of school attendance and reduced suspensions and expulsions. This will be measured quantitatively by collecting school attendance, suspension, and expulsion data and comparing the year prior to the 21CCLC program to each successive year after the program has begun. Behavior changes will also be evaluated using student and parent surveys at the conclusion of each 9-week session, as well as the behavior evaluations provided by the students' classroom teachers in the Teacher Survey portion of the PPICS.

Offering services that benefit the entire community by including families of participants and by collaborating with other agencies and non-profit organizations will be another key objective of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program in Joliet Public Schools District 86. This will be
measured by the type and extent of the collaborations that are proposed and implemented by the 21CCLC partnering agencies. Another measurement will be 21CCLC satisfaction surveys done with parents and participating agencies.

A basic element of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program in Joliet Public Schools District 86 is that the program serves children and community members with the greatest needs for expanded learning opportunities. This will be quantitatively measured by evaluating the data from the Illinois School Report Cards on low-income rates (i.e. free and reduced lunch eligibility) and low academic performance (i.e. does not meet or exceed Illinois Learning Standards) for the schools and students involved.

Another objective is that student participants will demonstrate increased involvement in school activities and participation in other subject areas. This will be measured quantitatively by collecting attendance data and qualitatively measured by utilizing student and parent surveys and the daytime classroom Teacher Survey portion of PPICS.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program will use funding most efficiently by coordinating and collaborating with other federal and state funding sources, agencies, and other community projects. This will be measured by evaluating the list of coordinating agencies and the types of services offered, as detailed in their letters of agreement.

Finally, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program staff will participate in professional development and training that will enable them to implement an effective program. This will be measured by evaluating the number of training sessions and workshops, the training topics, the attendance, and the evaluations completed by the attendees.

Formative evaluations, based on progressive data gathering will be used throughout the project for continuous project improvement. Summative evaluations will be used at the end of each project fiscal year to assess project outcomes and form the basis of the ISBE final report and the federal Annual Performance Review (APR). Both formative and summative evaluations will be shared with 21CCLC program staff, daytime classroom teachers of students attending the 21CCLC program, and our 21CCLC community partners.
As funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC) decreases, the Education-To-Careers (ETC) Partnership for the Joliet Junior College Region and our 21CCLC community partners will make every effort to ensure that the community learning centers will continue to operate. This process is already underway for portions of the 21st Century Kids Club program that has been providing services to the students and families of Joliet Public Schools District 86.

The first step in our sustainability process was to form a team of key stakeholders. This group is comprised of 21CCLC staff, community partners, educators, and parents. They reviewed the outcomes and accomplishments of the program, analyzed the program budget, and looked for future funding gaps. The sustainability team then suggested people or organizations in the community who can help promote the successes of the program to potential funding sources. This has been facilitated by our existing, well-established communication with the businesses, schools, public agencies, and citizens in the Joliet region. This communication has been on-going during the nine-year existence of the Education-To-Careers Partnership. Over the past four years, our 21st Century Kids Club has been “the talk of the town,” as evidenced by numerous feature news articles that have been published in The Herald News.

Organizations that have been identified by our sustainability team as potential funding sources are:

- Large employers in the Joliet region, which have a vital stake in developing the future workforce.
- Local business organizations, such as the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and the Will County Center for Economic Development.
Local governmental entities, including the City of Joliet and the Will County Board.

Leveraging public and private funding from other 21st Century Community Learning Center partners, including the Will County Regional Office of Education, Joliet Public Schools District 86, Three Rivers Education Partnership, Friends of Community Public Art, The Herald News, and the Joliet Police Department.

It has been our experience with the Education-To-Careers Partnership that “sustainability” also happens when schools internalize a program that was previously funded by external sources. Over the nine years that ETC has been operating in the Joliet region, numerous programs have been sustained by local school districts that were previously funded with federal school-to-work (ETC) funds. Joliet Public Schools District 86 has already shown that they value the successes of our after-school academic remediation accomplishments. For the past year, District 86 has implemented its own tutoring program in schools where students are struggling to meet the No Child Left Behind standards, but the schools are not yet on Early Warning with ISBE.

Our 21st Century Community Learning Centers partners have already shown their willingness to foster sustainability through their donation of in-kind services, a total dollar amount of which is listed for each partner on Attachment 2 of this grant proposal. Joliet Public Schools District 86 has shown a great commitment to the 21st Century program through their donation of the District 86 snack grant, the use of their buildings and grounds on a daily basis, and the 21st Century related administrative overhead incurred in the Curriculum and Instruction, Business Services, and Building and Grounds departments.

We will continue to proactively communicate with the Joliet community to promote the sustainability of the six proposed 21st Century Community Learning Centers. We have the process in place and our key stakeholders are already involved.
February 22, 2007

FY2008 Proposal Review Committee
21st Century Community Learning Centers
Illinois State Board of Education
Federal Grants and Programs Division, Mail Code N-242
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Re: Letter of Agreement, FY2008 21st Century Community Learning Centers Proposal

Dear Proposal Review Committee:

The Education-To-Careers Partnership for the Joliet Junior College Region is pleased to submit the enclosed grant proposal for six (6) 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC), as a joint applicant with the Will County Regional Office of Education and Joliet Public Schools District 86.

Over the past four years, our organizations have worked together with community partners in Joliet to serve 2,600 students with our highly successful 21st Century Kids Club program. The most impressive result of our 21st Century Kids Club activities is that two schools we have been serving since FY2003 have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years and have been removed from the ISBE academic watch list. The principals of those two schools have credited our 21st Century community Learning Centers as being significant factors in their schools attaining AYP.

As we have done for the past four years, the Education-To-Careers Partnership (ETC) will act as the lead agency in this effort, providing overall leadership and vision, full-time project management, and coordination of planning and programming with both our community partners and the six 21CCLC sites. ETC will work diligently throughout the project to assure that all partners and school sites have significant and ongoing involvement in the management and oversight of the program.

Sincerely,

Lewis D. Kemble
Executive Director
Education-To-Careers Partnership
February 6, 2007

FY2008 Proposal Review Committee
21st Century Community Learning Centers
Illinois State Board of Education
Federal Grants and Programs Division, Mail Code N-242
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Dear Sir,

As a full partner in the delivery of services to District 86 students provided by the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, I write to request full funding for the new request recently submitted.

District 86 students have made significant academic gains, in part attributed to the program provided by the 21st Century Kids Club. The program has significant value and benefit for children and contributes positively to academic growth. Our students are so much better off because of the existence of the program that it is the best use of any and all funds you can provide.

District 86 has been an active participant in every aspect of the program from planning to delivery. The results have been phenomenal and far exceeded our expectations. Continuing the program in the new funding cycle will once again impact the students with the greatest needs. The program components of daily tutoring in reading and math, character education, career awareness, technology, recreation art, and educational field trips have contributed fully to our students' growth and success.

For the many reasons listed in this letter, I urge you to please fund the new proposal. District 86 will fully commit to our same level of participation and support as in the past.

My sincere appreciation for your consideration of the provision of funds for the eligible 21st Century Kids Club Schools.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Wilson
Superintendent
February 7, 2007

FY 2008 Proposal Review Committee
21st Century Community Learning Centers
Illinois State Board of Education
Federal Grants & Programs Division, Mail Code N-242
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

RE: Letter of Agreement – ROE Support for 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Dear Review Committee:

This office serves as the Fiscal Agent for the current 21st Century Kids Club programs and will also serve in that capacity for the proposed 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. I am the Treasurer of the ETC Partnership and serve on that Executive Board. The ETC Executive Board reviews the progress of the program every other month and has helped refine the details of each program.

The proposed 21st Century Community Learning Centers will enable us to serve additional students in Grades 2-4 who are currently not being served. Three additional schools will be served and additional Grade 2 students at two current schools will be eligible for services. The same successful components consisting of daily tutoring in math & reading, character education, career awareness, technology, recreation, art, and educational field trips will continue as our proven core services.

We look forward to continued growth in student skills and achievement in addition to increased parent involvement in the learning process.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Duran
Regional Superintendent

GED • Truancy • Professional Development Alliance • Regional Safe Schools Program • Learning Technology Center One South • Certification

"Working with our schools to achieve Excellence"
February 9, 2007

FY2008 Proposal Review Committee
21st Century Community Learning Centers
Illinois State Board of Education
Federal Grants and Programs Division, Mail Code N-242
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Dear friends:

The Herald News heartily supports the 21st Century Kids Club II Community Learning Centers conducted in Joliet’s Grade School District 86.

As the oldest and largest daily newspaper in Chicago’s southwest suburbs, we are committed to identifying and supporting agencies that provide a vital service to our community. The 21st Century Kids Club provides a much-needed foundation for youngsters in grades 2 through 4 as well as grades 6 and 7.

Throughout the course of the year, our more than 130,000 readers are informed of activities of organizations such as the 21st Century Kids Club through news and feature stories as well as photo coverage. 21st Century Kids Club programs, activities and accomplishments receive prominent display on our pages on a regular basis.

Our “Schools” pages, run each Wednesday, feature education and educational issues week-in and week-out. In addition, our Newspapers in Education partners, including School District 86, assist us in getting the word out to our students and parents alike.

As Publisher of The Herald News, I personally am committed to the support of educational groups such as the 21st Century Kids Club. I serve on the Joliet Chamber of Commerce Education Committee and the School District 86 Joliet Reads Committee, in addition to spending up to five hours a month reading to elementary school youngsters in District 86.

In promising the full commitment of The Herald News to the 21st Century Kids Club, I urge you to fully support the program’s Fiscal Year 2008 grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Larry Randa
Publisher
The Herald News
300 Caterpillar Dr.
Joliet, IL 60436
(815)- 729-6069
February 08, 2007

FY2008 Proposal Review Committee
21st Century Community Learning Centers
Illinois State Board of Education
Federal Grants and Programs Division, Mail Code N-242
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001

To Whom It May Concern:

The Joliet Police Department has been an active partner in the 21st Century Kids Club for several years now. Joliet Police Officers provide for a safe and secure environment for children who participate in the program presently at six schools located here in Joliet. We look forward to adding additional schools.

Not only do our officers provide a secure environment, but additionally spend quality time with the children of the program. This interaction has not only benefited the children but has also instilled a renewed energy and dedication in my officers as they spend time with these children.

We here at the Joliet Police Department have found this program to be beneficial to our community and will continue to support it by supplying Joliet Police Officers on Special Assignment: If additional staff time is required, we can also meet that added demand.

Very Truly Yours,

Commander Charles Stein, Jr.
Operation Division
Joliet Police Department

Working with the Community for a Safe City
February 18, 2007

21st Century Community Learning Centers Proposal Review Committee
Illinois State Board of Education
System of Support Division, N-242
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in strong support of the 21st Century Kids Club through the Education to Careers Partnership in the Joliet Junior College Region.

Friends of Community Public Art (FCPA) was founded in late 1996 and incorporated in March of 1998 as a not for profit organization focusing on promoting an awareness of the rich cultural and historical heritage of Illinois in general and the Joliet area specifically. It is dedicated to the creation and planning of community based public art, as an outgrowth of the Public Art Program in Joliet.

Our FCPA artists find working with 21st Century students both challenging and rewarding. They work hard to develop programs that will encourage students to tap into their individual creative abilities, as well as learn to create larger projects through group or team building efforts. The programs try to include themes that coordinate with subjects they are studying in their regular classes. The reward comes from seeing students come out of their shell as they develop confidence in their abilities.

FCPA is looking forward to continuing our work with the 21st Century Kids Club. The program is a wonderful asset to not only the students, but also the community in general.

Sincerely,

Terri A. Lesnak
FCPA Education Director
February 4, 2007
FY 2008 Proposal Review Committee
21st Century Community Learning Centers
Illinois State Board of Education
Federal Grants and Programs Division, Mail Code N-242
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Dear Review Committee:

This letter is in support of the 21st Century Kids Club through Education to Careers Partnership for the Joliet 86 School District.

The Three Rivers Education Partnership (TREP) was formed by the Three Rivers Manufacturers' Association in 1989 to address the business community’s workforce issues. TREP is governed by a board of directors comprised equally of education and business leaders and is funded by participating schools and businesses. TREP provides, promotes, and develops educational opportunities to ensure that today's students have the skills necessary to succeed in the workplace.

TREP provides the 21st Century Kids Club with a Resource Guide of courses and presentations that reinforce traditional learning by introducing to students new concepts and careers. TREP partners with a variety of educational facilities such as Pilcher Park Nature Center, Joliet Area Historical Museum, University of Illinois – Will County Extension Center, Will County Land Use Department, Our World Underwater Scholarship Society, and Joliet Junior College that provides qualified instructors to the 21st Century Kids Club.

TREP looks forward to continuing the relationship with the 21st Century Kids Club Program and is delighted at the prospect of serving an increased number of students.

Sincerely,

Susette Cole
TREP Program Manager
February 16, 2007

FY2008 Proposal Review Committee
21st Century Community Learning Centres
Illinois State Board of Education
Federal Grants and Programs Division, Mail Code N-242
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

To Whom It May Concern:

As Principal for Edna Keith Elementary School, District 86, I would like to express my appreciation to the Illinois State Board of Education for providing funding for our 21st Century Kids Club Program for the past four years along with our community partner Education to Careers. The grant provides our students with daily tutoring in reading and math, character education, career awareness, technology and educational fieldtrips.

We will continue to provide the program with, at a minimum, copies of participating students' grade records, school attendance records, and information regarding whether or not the parent/guardian consent before school records are submitted to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

We look forward to working with ETC and other community organizations that will be involved in our 21st Century Kids Club Program.

Sincerely,

Ms. Donna Rudd
Principal
February 15, 2007

FY2008 Proposal Review Committee
21st Century Community Learning Centers
Illinois State Board of Education
Federal Grants and Programs Division, Mail Code N-242
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Dear Proposal Review Committee:

Lynne Thigpen Elementary School would like to participate in the Century 21st Program starting in the 2007-08 school year. I feel the program will positively augment our instructional program and provide many of our 2nd-4th grade students opportunities that would have a positive impact on their academic and social well-being. In order to participate in the program, our school will provide you with the following information when requested: copies of participating students’ grade records, school attendance records, and information regarding whether or not the participating students were promoted to the next grade level. There will also be a parent/guardian consent form on file before school records are submitted to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

Thank you for considering Lynne Thigpen as a ‘partner in learning’ in the 21st Century Program. I am looking forward to participating and working with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Gerald S. Bersano
Principal
To Whom It May Concern:

As the Principal of Pershing Elementary School, I would like to extend my appreciation to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers for giving our school the opportunity of working with you.

In compliance with the ISBE requirements: “Each school must acknowledge its willingness to provide with, at a minimum, copies of participating students’ grade records, school attendance records, and information regarding whether or not the participating students were promoted to the next grade level. Schools must receive parental/guardian consent before school records are submitted to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.”

I am very excited to be able to extend this learning partnership to the students who are eligible and look forward to the start of the program. Please be assured that we are available to assist you in providing classrooms and any other service you may need.

Sincerely,

Brenda Reiter
Principal
February 26, 2007

FY2008 Proposal Review Committee
21st Century Community Learning Centers
Illinois State Board of Education
Federal Grants and Programs Division, Mail Code N-242
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Dear Proposal Review Committee:

Sator Sanchez Elementary School would like to participate in the 21st Century Program starting in the 2007-08 school year. I feel the program will positively augment our instructional program and provide many of our second grade students opportunities that would have a positive impact on their academic and social well-being. In order to participate in the program, our school will provide you with the following information when requested: copies of participating students' grade records, school attendance records, and information regarding whether or not the participating students were promoted to the next grade level. There will also be a parent/guardian consent form on file before school records are submitted to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

Thank you for considering Sator Sanchez Elementary School as a 'partner in learning' in the 21st Century Program. I am looking forward to participating and working with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Frank Villela, Principal
February 5, 2007

FY2008 Proposal Review Committee
21st Century Community Learning Centers
Illinois State Board of Education
Federal Grants and Programs Division, Mail Code N-242
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Dear Proposal Review Committee:

Dirksen Junior High School would like to continue our partnership with Joliet Junior College’s Education to Careers 21st Century Kids Club for the year 2007-2008. This program has provided many of our students with additional academic enrichment, tutoring, and of course, a focus on career education. Data indicates the program has had positive impact on student achievement. Upon request, we will continue to provide: copies of participating students’ grade records, school attendance records, and information regarding whether or not the participating students are promoted to the next grade level. There will also be a parent/guardian consent form on file before school records are submitted to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

Thank you for considering Dirksen Junior High School as a ‘partner in learning’ in the 21st Century Kids Club Program. We look forward to participating and working with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Pfoutz
Principal, Dirksen Junior High School
February 14th, 2007

FY2008 Proposal Review Committee
21st Century Community Learning Centers
Illinois State Board of Education
Federal Grants and Programs Division, Mail Code N-242
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Dear Proposal Review Committee:

We here at Gompers would like to again participate in the 21st Century after school program for beginning for the 2007-2008 school year. The 21st Century program has become an integral part of our school and learning community. It has had a positive impact on thousands of students and as a result these students have continued to show academic success and academic growth. The 6th and 7th grade students here at Gompers would benefit greatly by having the 21st Century program in place. In order to participate in the 21st Century program our school will provide you with the following information when it is requested: copies of students’ grade records, school attendance records, and information regarding whether or not the participating students were promoted to the next grade level. There will also be a parent/guardian consent form on file before school records are submitted to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of Gompers Junior High School as a potential recipient of the 21st Century after school program. Should you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

David Negron
Gompers Principal
CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES, AND STANDARD TERMS OF THE GRANT

Will County Regional Office of Education (fiscal agent)/ETC Partnership for Joliet Jr. College Region

The applicant/award recipient (hereinafter the term applicant includes award recipient as the context requires), hereby certifies and assures the Illinois State Board of Education that:

1. Applicant is a(n): (Check one)
   - Individual
   - Corporation
   - Partnership
   - Unincorporated association
   - Government entity

   Social Security Account Number, Federal Employer identification Number or Region/County/District/School Code, as applicable: 56-000-0000-00

2. The applicant has the necessary legal authority to apply for and to receive the proposed award. The filing of this application has been authorized by the governing body of the applicant, and the undersigned representative has been duly authorized to file this application for and in behalf of said applicant, and otherwise to act as the authorized representative of the applicant in connection with this application and any award in relation thereto.

PROGRAM

3. The program proposed in the application, and as negotiated and finalized by the parties in the grant agreement, is hereinafter referred to as the "program". In planning the program there has been, and in establishing and carrying out the program, there will be (to the extent applicable to the program), participation of persons broadly representative of the cultural and educational resources of the area to be served, including persons representative of the interests of potential beneficiaries.

4. Applicants may be asked to clarify certain aspects of their proposals/applications prior to final agreement on the terms of the program.

5. All funds provided shall be used solely for the purposes stated in the approved proposal/application.

6. The program will be administered by or under the supervision of the applicant and in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable to the grant. The applicant will be responsible for and obtain all necessary permits, licenses or consent forms as may be required to implement the program.

SUBCONTRACTING

7. No subcontracting is allowed under this program, except as set forth in the grant agreement. If subcontracting is allowed, then all program responsibilities are to be retained by the applicant to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant. All subcontracting must be documented and must have the prior written approval of the State Superintendent of Education. Approval of subcontracts shall be subject to the same criteria as are applied to the original proposal/application. The following information is required if any subcontracting is to be utilized:
   - name(s) and address(es) of subcontractor(s);
   - need and purpose for subcontracting;
   - measurable and time-specific services to be provided;
   - associated costs, i.e., amounts to be paid under subcontracts;
   - projected number of participants to be served.

The applicant may not assign, convey or transfer its rights to the grant award without the prior written consent of the State Board of Education.

FINANCIAL TERMS

8. Payment under this grant is subject to passage of a sufficient appropriation by the General Assembly. Obligations of the State Board of Education will cease immediately without further obligation should the General Assembly fail to appropriate sufficient funds for this grant.

9. A grantee must not obligate funds prior to the start date of the program set forth in the final grant agreement. The program's start date cannot precede the start of the fiscal year for which the funds are appropriated.

All program activities must be completed between the program beginning date and the ending date. Liquidation of all obligations, including the current year's audit fee, should be completed no later than 90 calendar days after the program ending date.
10. The applicant understands that payment for approved services and expenses will be made on a reimbursement-of-claims basis, and that payment will be made in accordance with applicable statutes, regulations and standards. After an application for payment is submitted to the State Board of Education. Vouchers for payment will be submitted to the Office of the Comptroller according to the payment schedule attached to the final grant agreement. The payment schedule shall be based on the projected date of expenditures. Payments will be withheld from scheduled amounts if periodic reports show excessive cash on hand.

11. An approved budget may be amended by completing the Budget Summary form to show the new amounts required and attaching an explanation for the changes. An amendment to the grant agreement must be entered into whenever any individual cell changes by more than $1,000 or 20 percent, whichever is larger. An amendment to the grant agreement must also be entered into whenever a grantee proposes to use funds for allowable expenditures not identified in the currently approved budget, if the scope of the program is expected to change, or if the overall grant award must be increased.

Obligation of funds based on budget amendments cannot begin prior to the date of receipt of an amendment to the grant agreement executed by the State Board of Education. Requests for budget amendments must be received by the State Board of Education no later than 30 calendar days prior to the ending date of the program.

12. All grant funds shall be subject to the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act (30 ILCS 705). Funds granted for the operation of this program must be used exclusively for the purposes stated in the approved proposal/application and must be expended in accordance with the approved budget and the grantee's policies and procedures related to such expenditures. Funds may only be expended for activities occurring during the grant period. All interest earned on state grant funds shall become part of the grant principal when earned and treated accordingly for all purposes. For federal grant funds, any amount that exceeds $100 must be returned to the federal granting agency (see 34 CFR 80.21).

13. Financial Reports: Quarterly expenditure reports are required of all grantees receiving federal funds. Dates for filing are September 30, December 31, March 31 and June 30 of each fiscal year. Expenditure reports must be filed electronically to the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services. All grant funds must be spent or obligated prior to the ending date of the program. Each grantee must submit a completion report showing the obligations paid and the expenditures for the program no later than 30 calendar days after the program ending date. If a completion report was filed with outstanding obligations, then a final expenditure report showing total program expenditures (with all prior obligations paid) must be submitted no later than 90 calendar days after the program ending date. Failure to submit the final expenditure report will result in current and subsequent years' program funding being withheld until the report is received. In cases where final expenditures are less than total disbursements, the overpayment must be returned to the State Board of Education within 45 calendar days for all state grants or federal grants that do not allow carryover funds. Failure to return the funds will result in a breach of the grant agreement. Upon any such breach, the State Board of Education may, without limitation, withhold current and subsequent years' program funding until the overpayment is returned.

14. The applicant will maintain records on program and fiscal activities related to each award for a period of three (3) years following the end of each award period for either a state-funded or federally funded program. Such records shall include a fiscal accounting for all monies in accordance with generally accepted governmental accounting principles. If there are outstanding audit exceptions, records will be retained on file until such exceptions are closed out to the satisfaction of the State Board of Education.

15. The State Board of Education and other governmental entities with program monitoring authority shall, during the award period and for a period of three (3) years thereafter (or until no outstanding audit exceptions remain, whichever is later), have the right at any time to conduct on-site or off-site inspections of the applicant's records and program operations for auditing and monitoring purposes. The applicant shall, during the award period and for a period of three (3) years thereafter (or until no outstanding audit exceptions remain, whichever is later) and upon the request of the State Board of Education, provide the State Board of Education with information and documentation regarding the applicant's progress or performance with respect to the administration and operation of the program.

NO BINDING OBLIGATION

16. The applicant acknowledges and agrees that the selection of its proposal for funding, or approval to fund an application, shall not be deemed to be a binding obligation of the State Board of Education until such time as a final grant agreement is entered into between the applicant and the State Board of Education. Prior to the execution of a final grant agreement, the State Board of Education may withdraw its award of funding to the applicant at any time, for any reason.

COPYRIGHT

17. All rights, including copyright, to data, information and/or other materials developed pursuant to an award are retained by the State Board of Education, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the State Board of Education. All such work products produced by the applicant through work pursuant to the award shall be made available to the State Board of Education upon request.
DEFAULT AND TERMINATION

18. The applicant will be in default of the grant award and the corresponding grant agreement if it breaches any representation or warranty made in the grant agreement or in these Certifications and Assurances, and Standard Terms of the Grant, or fails to observe or perform any covenant, agreement, obligation, duty or provision set forth in the grant agreement or in these Certifications and Assurances, and Standard Terms of the Grant. Upon default by the applicant and written notice by the State Board of Education, the applicant will have ten days in which to cure the default to the satisfaction of the State Board of Education. If the default is not cured to the satisfaction of the State Board of Education, the State Board of Education shall thereafter have full right and authority to terminate the grant agreement and/or seek such other remedy that may be available at law or in equity. Upon termination of the grant agreement, the applicant will cease all use of grant funds, shall cancel all cancelable obligations relating to the program, and shall return all unexpended grant funds to the State Board of Education within 45 days of termination.

INDEMNIFICATION

19. The applicant shall indemnify, defend and save harmless the State of Illinois, the State Board of Education, and their respective members, officers, agents and employees against all loss, damage or expense that it or they may sustain as a result of any suit, action or claim of any character brought on account of injury to any person or property or death of any person or persons, including all persons performing any work related to the use of grant funds, which may arise in connection with the program. Neither the applicant nor its employees or subcontractors shall be considered agents or employees of the State Board of Education or of the State of Illinois.

If the applicant is a government unit only, it is understood and agreed that neither the applicant nor the State Board of Education shall be liable for any negligent or wrongful acts either of commission or omission unless such liability is imposed by law.

GENERAL CERTIFICATION AND ASSURANCES

20. The applicant will obey all laws, regulations, and executive orders prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap, and all other laws, regulations, and executive orders applicable to its activities, including but not limited to the School Code (105 ILCS 5/1-1 et seq.), Title IX of the Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), the Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq.), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (29 U.S.C. 621 et seq.), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq., 2000e et seq.), the Public Works Employment Discrimination Act (775 ILCS 10/0.01 et seq.), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). Further, no grantee shall deny access to the program funded under the grant to students who lack documentation of their immigration status or legal presence in the United States (Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202, 102 S.Ct. 2382 (1982)).

21. The applicant is not barred from entering into this contract by Sections 33E-3 and 33E-4 of the Criminal Code of 1961 (720 ILCS 5/33E-3, 33E-4). Sections 33E-3 and 33E-4 prohibit the receipt of a state contract by a contractor who has been convicted of bid-rigging or bid-rotating.

22. If the applicant is an individual, the applicant is not in default on an educational loan as provided in 5 ILCS 385/3.

23. The applicant is not prohibited from receiving a grant award from the State of Illinois because it pays dues or fees on behalf of its employees or agents or subsidizes or otherwise reimburses them for payment of their dues or fees to any club which unlawfully discriminates (775 ILCS 10/1).

24. The applicant certifies that it has informed the State Superintendent of Education in writing if any employee of the applicant was formerly employed by the State Board of Education and has received an early retirement incentive under 40 ILCS 5/14-108.3 or 40 ILCS 5/16-133.3 (Illinois Pension Code). The applicant acknowledges and agrees that if such early retirement incentive was received, this grant agreement is not valid unless the official executing the agreement has made the appropriate filing with the Auditor General prior to execution.

25. The applicant shall notify the State Superintendent of Education if the applicant solicits or intends to solicit for employment any of the State Board of Education's employees during any part of the application process or during the term of the grant agreement.

26. If applicable, the applicant shall be required to observe and comply with provisions of the Prevailing Wage Act, 820 ILCS 130/1 et. seq., which applies to the wages of laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in any public works.

27. The applicant certifies that, as of the date of signature below, it is (a) current as to the filing and payment of any applicable federal, state and/or local taxes; and (b) not delinquent in its payment of monies owed to any federal, state or local unit of government.
DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE CERTIFICATION

28. This certification is required by the Drug-Free Workplace Act (30 ILCS 580/1). The Drug-Free Workplace Act, effective January 1, 1992, requires that no grantee or contractor shall receive a grant or be considered for the purposes of being awarded a contract for the procurement of any property or services from the State unless that grantee or contractor has certified to the State that the grantee or contractor will provide a drug-free workplace. False certification or violation of the certification may result in sanctions including, but not limited to, suspension of contract or grant payments, termination of the contract or grant and debarment of contracting or grant opportunities with the State for at least one (1) year but not more than five (5) years.

For the purpose of this certification, "grantee" or "contractor" means a corporation, partnership, or other entity with twenty-five (25) or more employees at the time of issuing the grant, or a department, division, or other unit thereof, directly responsible for the specific performance under a contract or grant of $5,000 or more from the State.

The applicant certifies and agrees that it will provide a drug-free workplace by:

(a) Publishing a statement:

1. Notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance, including cannabis, is prohibited in the grantee’s or contractor’s workplace.

2. Specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition.

3. Notifying the employee that, as a condition of employment on such contract or grant, the employee will:
   (A) abide by the terms of the statement; and
   (B) notify the employer of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five (5) days after such conviction.

(b) Establishing a drug-free awareness program to inform employees about:

1. the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;

2. the grantee’s or contractor’s policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;

3. any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and

4. the penalties that may be imposed upon an employee for drug violations.

(c) Providing a copy of the statement required by subsection (a) to each employee engaged in the performance of the contract or grant and posting the statement in a prominent place in the workplace.

(d) Notifying the contracting or granting agency within ten (10) days after receiving notice under part (B) of paragraph (3) of subsection (a) above from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction.

(e) Imposing a sanction on, or requiring the satisfactory participation in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program by, any employee who is so convicted, as required by Section 5 of the Drug-Free Workplace Act.

(f) Assisting employees in selecting a course of action in the event drug counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation are required and indicating that a trained referral team is in place.

(g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of the Drug-Free Workplace Act.

The undersigned affirms, under penalties of perjury, that he or she is authorized to execute this Certifications and Assurances, and Standard Terms of the Grant on behalf of the applicant.

Will County Regional Office of Education

Name of Applicant

By: March 1, 2007

Signature of Authorized Official

Superintendent, Will County ROE

Title
Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion
Lower Tier Covered Transactions

This certification is required by the regulations implementing Executive Orders 12549 and 12689, Debarment and Suspension, 7 CFR 3017 Subpart C Responsibilities of Participants Regarding Transactions. The regulations were published as Part IV of the January 30, 1989 Federal Register (pages 4722-4733) and Part II of the November 26, 2003 Federal Register (pages 66533-66646). Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the Illinois State Board of Education.

BEFORE COMPLETING CERTIFICATION, READ INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.

CERTIFICATION

The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this Certification, that:

1. Neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency;
2. It will provide immediate written notice to whom this Certification is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances;
3. It shall not knowingly enter any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated;
4. It will include the clause titled Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion—Lower Tier Covered Transactions, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions;
5. The certifications herein are a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into; and
6. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this Certification.

Will County Regional Office of Education
21st Century Community Learning Centers

Organization Name
PRI/Award Number or Project Name

Richard P. Duran, Superintendent, Will County Regional Office of Education

Name and Title of Authorized Representative

Signature
Date

Instructions for Certification

1. By signing and submitting this Certification, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certifications set out herein.
2. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue all available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
3. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 3 above, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue all available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
4. The terms covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded, as used herein, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549 and Executive Order 12689. You may contact the person to which this Certification is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
5. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the "GSA Excluded Parties List System" at http://epis.gsa.gov/.
6. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required herein. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit ISBE 85-37, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.

Will County Regional Office of Education

Organization Name

21st Century Community Learning Centers

PRI/Award (or Application) Number or Project Name

Richard P. Duran, Superintendent, Will County Regional Office of Education

Name and Title of Authorized Representative

Signature

March 1, 2007

Date
Complete this form to disclose lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352. (See reverse for public burden disclosure.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. TYPE OF FEDERAL ACTION</th>
<th>2. STATUS OF FEDERAL ACTION</th>
<th>3. REPORT TYPE</th>
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<tr>
<td>☑ a. contract</td>
<td>☑ a. bid/offer/application</td>
<td>☑ a. initial filing</td>
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<tr>
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<td>☑ b. initial award</td>
<td>☑ b. material change</td>
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<td>☑ c. cooperative agreement</td>
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<td>For material change only:</td>
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<td>☑ d. loan</td>
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<td>☑ e. loan guarantee</td>
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<td>☑ f. loan insurance</td>
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<tr>
<th>4. NAME AND ADDRESS OF REPORTING ENTITY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will County Regional Office of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>302 N. Chicago Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joliet, IL 60432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ Prime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ Subawardee, Tier, if known</td>
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<td>Congressional District, if known</td>
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<th>6. FEDERAL DEPARTMENT/AGENCY</th>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Department of Education</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7. FEDERAL PROGRAM NAME/DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>21st Century Community Learning Centers</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>8. FEDERAL ACTION NUMBER, if known</th>
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<tr>
<th>9. AWARD AMOUNT, if known</th>
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<tr>
<th>10a. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LOBBYING ENTITY</th>
<th>10b. INDIVIDUALS PERFORMING SERVICES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(If individual, last name, first name, M)</td>
<td>(including address if different from No. 10a)</td>
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<tr>
<td>None - Does not apply</td>
<td>None - Does not apply</td>
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<tr>
<th>11. AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>☑ Actual</td>
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<tr>
<td>☑ Planned</td>
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<th>12. FORM OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)</th>
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<tr>
<td>☑ a. cash</td>
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<td>☑ b. in-kind; specify: nature</td>
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<td>value</td>
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<th>13. TYPE OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)</th>
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<tr>
<td>☑ a. retainer</td>
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<tr>
<td>☑ b. one-time fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ c. commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ d. contingent fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ e. deferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ f. other; specify</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 14. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES PERFORMED OR TO BE PERFORMED AND DATE(S) OF SERVICE, INCLUDING OFFICER(S), EMPLOYEE(S), OR MEMBER(S) CONTACTED, FOR PAYMENT INDICATED IN ITEM 11 |

| None - Does not apply                        |

| 15. ☑ YES ☑ NO CONTINUATION SHEET(S), ISBE 85-37A ATTACHED |

| 16. Information requested through this form is authorized by title 31 U.S.C. section 1352. This disclosure of lobbying activities is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed by the tier above when this transaction was made or entered into. This disclosure is required pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352. This information will be reported to the Congress semi-annually and will be available for public inspection. Any person who fails to file the required disclosure shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIGNATURE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard P. Duran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TITLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent, Will County Regional Office of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TELEPHONE NUMBER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>815-740-8360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF
ISBE 85-37, DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

This disclosure form shall be completed by the reporting entity, whether subawardee or prime Federal recipient, at the initiation or receipt of a covered Federal action, or a material change to a previous filing, pursuant to title 31 U.S.C. section 1352. The filing of a form is required for each payment or agreement to make payment to any lobbying entity for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with a covered Federal action. Use the ISBE 85-37A Continuation Sheet for additional information if the space on the form is inadequate. Complete all items that apply for both the initial filing and material change report. Refer to the implementing guidance published by the Office of Management and Budget for additional information.

1. Identify the type of covered Federal action for which lobbying activity is and/or has been secured to influence the outcome of a covered Federal action.
2. Identify the status of the covered Federal action.
3. Identify the appropriate classification of this report. If this is a follow-up report caused by a material change to the information previously reported, enter the year and quarter in which the change occurred. Enter the date of the last previously submitted report by this reporting entity for this covered Federal action.
4. Enter the full name, address, city, state and zip code of the reporting entity. Include Congressional District, if known. Check the appropriate classification of the reporting entity that designates if it is, or expects to be, a prime or subaward recipient. Identify the tier of the subawardee, e.g., the first subawardee of the prime is the 1st tier. Subawards include but are not limited to subcontracts, subgrants and contract awards under grants.
5. If the organization filing the report in item 4 checks “Subawardee”, then enter the full name, address, city, state and zip code of the prime Federal recipient. Include Congressional District, if known.
6. Enter the name of the Federal agency making the award or loan commitment. Include at least one organizational level below agency name, if known. For example, Department of Transportation, United States Coast Guard.
7. Enter the Federal program name or description for the covered Federal action (item 1). If known, enter the full Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and loan commitments.
8. Enter the most appropriate Federal identifying number available for the Federal action identified in item 1 (e.g., Request for Proposal (RFP) number; Invitation for Bid (IFB) number; grant announcement number; the contract, grant, or loan award number; the application/proposal control number assigned by the Federal agency). Include prefixes, e.g., “RFP-DE-90-001”.
9. For a covered Federal action where there has been an award or loan commitment by the Federal agency, enter the Federal amount of the award/loan commitment for the prime entity identified in item 4 or 5.
10. (a) Enter the full name, address, city, state and zip code of the lobbying entity engaged by the reporting entity identified in item 4 to influence the covered Federal action.
    (b) Enter the full names of the individual(s) performing services, and include full address if different from 10(a). Enter Last Name, First Name, and Middle Initial(MI).
11. Enter the amount of compensation paid or reasonably expected to be paid by the reporting entity (item 4) to the lobbying entity (item 10). Indicate whether the payment has been made (actual) or will be made (planned). Check all boxes that apply. If this is a material change report, enter the cumulative amount of payment made or planned to be made.
12. Check the appropriate box(es). Check all boxes that apply. If payment is made through an in-kind contribution, specify the nature and value of the in-kind payment.
13. Check the appropriate box(es). Check all boxes that apply. If other, specify nature.
14. Provide a specific and detailed description of the services that the lobbyist has performed, or will be expected to perform, and the date(s) of any services rendered. Include all preparatory and related activity, not just time spent in actual contact with Federal officials. Identify the Federal official(s) or employee(s) contacted or the officer(s), employee(s), or Member(s) of Congress that were contacted.
15. Check whether or not an ISBE 85-37A Continuation Sheet(s) is attached.
16. The certifying official shall sign and date the form, print his/her name, title, and telephone number.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0048), Washington, D.C. 20503.
ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Federal Grants and Programs, N-242
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
217/524-4332

ILLINOIS 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS PROGRAM
PROGRAM ASSURANCES

Each applicant for funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program must assure that:

1. The program will take place in a safe and easily accessible facility;

2. The proposed program was developed, and will be carried out, in active collaboration with the schools the students attend;

3. The program will primarily target students who attend schools eligible for schoolwide programs under section 1114 and the families of such students;

4. Funds under this part will be used to increase the level of state, local, and other non-federal funds that would, in the absence of funds under this part, be made available for programs and activities authorized under this part, and in no case supplant federal, state, local, or non-federal funds;

5. The community will be given notice of an intent to submit an application and that the application and any waiver request will be available for public review after submission of the application;

6. The learning center will make available a description of how the students participating in the program carried out by the community learning center will travel safely to and from the center and home; and

7. The organization selected for funding will meet all statutory and regulatory requirements of this program. In order to ensure that a local grantee, including faith-based organizations, meets the program's purposes and criteria, it shall not discriminate against beneficiaries on the basis of religion. Funds shall be used solely for the purposes set forth in this grant program. No funds provided pursuant to this program shall be expended to support religious practices, such as religious instruction, worship, or prayer. Faith-based organizations may offer such practices, but not as part of the program receiving assistance, and faith-based organizations shall comply with generally applicable cost accounting requirements to ensure that funds are not used to support these activities.

March 1, 2007
Signature of Authorized Official (Fiscal Agent)

Superintendent, Will County ROE
Title of Authorized Official
Section 427 of GEPA affects all school districts submitting proposals under this program. This section requires each applicant to include in its proposal a description of the steps the applicant proposes to take to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, its federally assisted program for students, teachers and other program beneficiaries with special needs.

This provision allows applicants discretion in developing the required description. The statute highlights six types of barriers that can impede equitable access or participation: gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age. The applicant should determine whether these or other barriers may prevent students, teachers, etc., from such access to, or participation in, the federally funded project or activity. The description of steps to be taken to overcome these barriers need not be lengthy; the school district may provide a clear and succinct description of how it plans to address those barriers that are applicable to its circumstances. In addition, the information may be provided in a single narration, or, if appropriate, may be discussed in connection with related topics in the application.

Section 427 is not intended to duplicate the requirements of the civil rights statutes, but rather to ensure that, in designing their programs, applicants for federal funds address equity concerns that may affect the ability of certain beneficiaries to fully participate in the program and to achieve high standards. Consistent with Advanced Placement Incentive Program requirements and its approved proposal, an applicant may use the federal funds awarded to it to eliminate barriers it identifies.

Describe the steps that will be taken to overcome barriers to equitable program participation of students, teachers, and other beneficiaries with special needs.

21st Century Community Learning Centers Program

General Education Provisions Act

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program in Joliet Public Schools District 86 will ensure equitable access to and participation in all program activities for students, teachers, and other beneficiaries with special needs regardless of gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age.

Program announcements will be posted publicly in the Joliet newspaper The Herald News. Students, teachers, volunteers, and service providers will be recruited for the program from the general population of the city of Joliet and the students and staff of Joliet Public Schools District 86, where the centers will be located.

All necessary accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities to participate in the program. The program will provide professional development opportunities to assist teachers in helping learners with disabilities reach their full potential, and to acquaint teachers, staff, and service providers with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The program will promote cultural sensitivity and mutual respect in all teaching-learning interactions. Program brochures and announcements will be made available in Spanish for the large Spanish-speaking population of Joliet.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program will offer individualized approaches, where appropriate, including one-on-one tutoring and computer-assisted learning. Accommodations will be made for learning styles, differences, and difficulties so that all students can learn and perform at their highest potential.