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EAST CHAMBERS ISD

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East Chambers ISD is excited to share the following correspondence from the Texas Education Agency:

"TEA is pleased to inform you that the application submitted by East Chambers ISD has been preliminarily selected to receive an award for the 2018-2019 Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant program. This preliminary selection was made after evaluation by professionals from outside the agency as well as agency staff."

All grantees adhere to basic program requirements and offer activities focused on four areas:

- Tutorials for students before and after school;
- Enrichment activities for students to explore science, technology and the arts;
- Activities and training that help families support their students to be successful at school; &
- Guidance and field trips that help students and their families access information about college and careers.

The overarching goal of the program is to foster each student's academic success by improving attendance, behavior and academics which lead to grade level promotion, graduation and helping students be more prepared for college and the workplace.

The ECISD proposal, titled STEM to STERN, will serve students in PK-12 and will feature high-interest activities based on student voice and choice. A preliminary menu of offerings in this after school, weekend, and summer program include: Homework help, Accelerated instruction, STEM clubs, Technology exploration, Social-emotional support services, Mentoring/character education, STAAR/EOC test prep, ACT and SAT test prep, ESL supports, Agricultural programs, Intramural sports, Dance, Chess, Gardening, Cooking, Community service/volunteer opportunities, Health, nutrition, and fitness, Fine arts performance and appreciation, Curriculum nights, College visits, Museum explorations, Field lessons/field trips, Understanding financing and applications for college, Financial literacy, and Technology applications.

The programs will be offered at no cost to the students and include snacks and transportation. Each of the four campuses will have its own center staffed by the grant.

ECISD partnered with the Winnie-Stowell Ministerial Alliance for this program. Area churches will assist the district with outreach, logistics, support, and programs.



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The award from the US Department of Education and the Texas Education Agency for the East Chambers ISD STEM to STERN after school program totals \$911,000 per year for up to five years, contingent on continued funding.

According to Superintendent Scott Campbell: "This is a game changer. The children of this community are going to be provided opportunities to participate in activities that many of us take for granted in providing for our own children but that economics has prevented other parents from being able to provide. This levels the playing field of opportunity. We intend to give students all the advantages necessary to become well rounded children. There can be no excuse for not becoming a model, well educated, child with high expectations, goals, and a competitive desire to succeed after participating in this program. My administrative staff, our grant writer, The Board of the East Chambers Independent School District, and the Ministerial Alliance joined together and worked to make this grant happen. We are excited to begin improving the opportunities of all of our children but especially our most vulnerable. Look for much more information to come and get ready to see your school and community become transformative in the lives of our children."

Finally, as a message to the parents of Winnie and Stowell, Campbell stated: "I want parents to know that if they have anguished about not being able to afford to provide their children access to all the after school activities they know would help their children thrive, or for parents who have to work late into the evening, or for parents who just want more for their children and can't find the way to make it happen, we are going to do it with you. We are opening the schoolhouse doors in the evening, at night, on Saturdays, and during the summer to provide activities you've always wanted your child to have. All that we ask in return is for your child to excel in life."