



# Springfield Academic and Family Enrichment

OREGON

## Program Overview

The City of Springfield in Lane County has a population of approximately 58,000 residents with nearly 15% of families living below the poverty line which includes 17.9% of the city's population and 23.5% of children under the age of 18.

Springfield School District is one of the largest school districts in the state with 15 elementary schools, 5 middle schools and 4 high schools. The school district has worked in partnership with Willamalane Parks and Recreation District (WPRD) for over 10 years offering free, high quality and engaging afterschool programs called SAFE (Springfield Afterschool & Family Enrichment) programs to hundreds of children and families in Springfield County.

In the district's first round of 21st CCLC funding (SAFE1), which ended in 2010, there were 5 elementary school sites offering targeted reading and math instruction and a meal to over 300 students from 2:45 – 4:00 p.m. Monday –Thursday. In the final year of the grant, because of budget reductions, the program had to reduce offerings at all 5 elementary schools to 45-60 minutes of supplemental reading to a small group of children and they added arts enrichment on 'no school days' via a contract with the parks and recreation department. There was also a middle school SAFE 1 program that ran a 'no-school' day program in the spring and winter for approximately 22 students that included martial arts and hip hop dance.

In the district's 2nd round of 21st CCLC funding, SAFE 2 afterschool programs are offered 3 hours each day Monday-Thursday at 4 new elementary school sites and 2 new middle schools. These programs offer engaging academic and enrichment programs as well as serving a meal.

In 2008-2009, 74% of students served in SAFE Programs were considered "regular attendees," defined as participating in 30 days of programming or more. Forty-nine percent of students served were white, 35% Hispanic/Latino, 5.3% undetermined, 4.3% Black/African American, 4.2% American Indian/Native American and 2.2% Asian/Pacific Islander.

During the 09-10 school year WPRD also offered 8 fee based "Kids Club" sites in addition to partnering with the school district on the twelve 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

The Park and Recreation District is expecting fewer fee based programs in 2011 based on current economic conditions, higher unemployment rates as well as reduced unemployment benefits. In an effort to reduce overhead the district has had to eliminate positions, restructure the early childhood program, redesign fee structure, and has also been forced to have seasonal layoffs during winter/spring and summer break due to lowered enrollment. Park and Recreation staff is particularly concerned about cuts in programming if families lose state assistance due to state budget cuts.



## Fast Facts

- 89% of students served in 2008-2009 were economically disadvantaged as determined by free and reduced lunch data, and 19.2% were limited English proficient
- During the 2009 -2010 the SAFE 1 Arts Enrichment program was offered at 5 elementary schools and one middle school 9 times throughout the year, on no-school Fridays from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. The program included busing, a meal a family arts event sponsored at each site one time during the school year
- The new SAFE 2 grant serves 489 high needs students and 100 families at 4 elementary schools and two middle schools. The program offers 3 hours of academic and enrichment activities that support literacy, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) as well as offering meals 4 days/week
- 33% of students in Park and Recreation sponsored afterschool programs receive some type of state assistance, leaving much apprehension about what the future will bring

## Promising Practices

Springfield School District has a long standing and strong, collaborative partnership with Willamalane Park & Recreation District, working together to coordinate the 21st CCLC programs and The District Title 1 programs as well as offering fee based programs. In addition Springfield School District has long standing community partnerships with the following organizations:

- **The USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program**
- **The University of Oregon**
- **Oregon State University Extension Service**
- **Springfield Police Department**
- **Lane Community College**
- **The U.S. Handball Association**
- **The U.S. Fly-fishing Association**
- **P.A.A.W.S literary dogs**
- **Springfield Library**
- **School district family resource centers**

Arts enrichment programs have only been offered during the final year of the SAFE 1 grant program on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. when there was no school, which was a tremendous support to working families. The Willamalane Park and Recreation District has intentionally and strategically ensured that their Enrichment Programs not only support academic success through STEM curriculum (science, technology, engineering and math), but also offer youth development activities including:

- **Recreation**
- **Arts**
- **Service learning**
- **Character education**
- **Student health including physical activity, nutrition and behavior support**

The afterschool programs also support family strengthening by offering literacy classes, computer training, parenting education, English Language Learners (ELL) instruction as well as nutrition education and recreation for families.