



Date: December 13th, 2017

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

2018-19 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Grant- The purpose of this five year grant is to open a community learning center that does the following:

- Provides opportunities for academic enrichment to help students meet challenging state academic standards
- Offers students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic programs
- Offers the families of students served by community learning centers opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children's education, including opportunities for literacy and related educational development

The Frederic School District's previous CCLC Grant was not approved for funding.

2018-19 Charter School Grant- The purpose of this five year grant is to open a charter school within the District. Wisconsin was awarded \$95 million in federal funding to expand charter schools throughout the state. Charter schools are public, nonsectarian schools created through a business-like contract or "charter" between the charter governance board and the sponsoring school board or other chartering authority. The Wisconsin charter school law gives charter schools freedom from most state rules and regulations in exchange for greater accountability for results. The charter defines the missions and methods of the charter school. The chartering authority holds the school accountable to its charter. The charter school motto is "Autonomy for Accountability."

- Support the growth of high-quality charter schools in Wisconsin, especially those focused on improving academic outcomes for educationally disadvantaged secondary students
- Strengthen and improve authorizing quality and promote the adoption of best practices for all authorizers in Wisconsin
- Promote and support collaboration and sharing of best practices between high-quality charter schools and other schools in the state, especially those that experience difficulty in adequately serving educationally disadvantaged students

On December 1, I attended an informational session in Chippewa Falls to explore the opportunity to open a charter school in the Frederic School District.

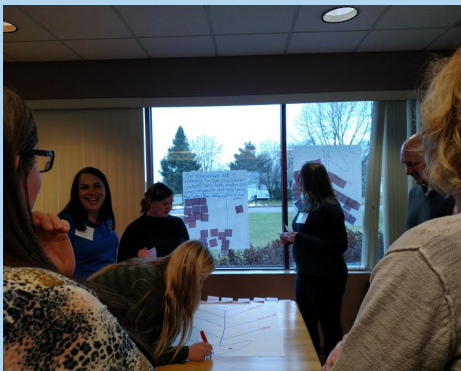
UPCOMING STREET PROJECTS

- ▶ Park Avenue, Spruce, and Birch Street Project- This project includes paving of roads and potentially adding sidewalks. We are extremely happy this project was approved.
- ▶ State Highway 35 Project- Construction on the project is to include HWY 35 from Polk Street in Frederic and continue north to Bacon Street in Siren. Improvements include milling and overlaying the existing pavement, as well as improving several guardrail installations and culverts. Additionally, a right turn lane for northbound traffic will be added at the County E intersection in Lewis. HWY 35 will remain open to traffic in single lanes.



DATA RETREAT

In mid-November, a team of 12 teachers and administrators attended a two-day workshop at CESA, with the focus being student data. Much time was spent reviewing information in WiseData and on the report cards. An important component of the workshop was to not only study data and identify some goals, but to build a framework for work with the data within the District.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- ▶ **Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding** - The first ever commission will hold its first meeting this month, with public hearings beginning in the new year. Recommendations will be given to legislative leaders before the end of the session. While we don't know what the results will be, this is a positive step. Comments by Speaker Vos and Senator Fitzgerald capture the essence of the commission:

"The school funding formula was first created in the 1970's and a review hasn't been done in 20 years," said Speaker Vos. "Times have changed, state demographics have changed, and of course, schools have changed; it's time to examine the way we pay for schools."

"Every child should have access to a quality education in Wisconsin," said Sen. Fitzgerald. "With declining enrollments in more than half of the state's school districts, a thorough analysis is necessary to ensure the process is transparent, equitable and delivers excellent schools today and in the future."

- ▶ The Governor recently signed into law bills regarding the following
 - Technical Education Scholarship Program
 - Alternative Education Grants
 - DPI Grant Programs
 - Financial Literacy
 - Montessori TEaching License
 - School Employee Tuberculosis Screening

YSCREEN

In early February, our ninth grade students will have the opportunity to participate in YScreen. This screening is being done in partnership with the Polk County Mental Task Force. Frederic is one of four school districts in Polk County to partner with the task force on this opportunity for our students and families. The YScreen will help identify students who may need extra supports that can be provided by the task force. Utilizing the YScreen is one part to a larger support system the District is creating for our students and families.

SPARSITY AID

144 school districts received sparsity aid totaling \$18.5 million. Eligible districts have fewer than 745 students and 10 students per square mile. The funding was prorated to 98.84% of the \$300 per pupil we should receive. Our total is \$162,494 for the 2017-18 school year based on our membership number of 548. This is the category of aid the Governor advocated for increasing to \$400 per student and fully funding, but his change was eliminated from the budget through the joint finance committee. His efforts would have boosted the District's portion to \$219,200.