

Message from the Superintendent. . . .

I am pleased to share with you the announcement from the U.S. Department of Education, Health, Human Services, and Justice that our District is the recipient of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant, awarding a total of \$5,745,460 million to be used over the next four years. This award will allow the Waterford School District, in partnership with local public mental health, law enforcement, and juvenile justice entities, to implement a comprehensive, community-wide plan that focuses on the following elements:

- Safe school environments and violence prevention activities
- Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention activities
- Student behavioral, social, and emotional supports
- Mental health services
- Early childhood social and emotional learning programs



These comprehensive plans are designed to provide our students, schools, and families with a network of effective services, supports, and activities that help students develop the skills and emotional resilience necessary to promote positive mental health, engage in pro-social behavior, and prevent violent behavior and drug use; create schools and communities that are a safe, disciplined, and drug-free environment; and assist parents, community organizations, and social service agencies in the development of an infrastructure that will sustain the components of the grant after federal funding has ended.

Some of the projects that will be implemented within the Waterford School District include:

Collaboration:

- Expanded collaboration and resources between the Waterford School District and Oakland County Mental Health; Oakland County Circuit Court; Catholic Social Services of Oakland County; Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency; Oakland University; and the Waterford Police Department.

Programming:

- An after school program will be put in place for all secondary schools that will target at-risk students.
- A Head Start classroom will be added.
- A Hispanic Preschool Program will be added.
- First Families program will be expanded.
- All buildings will have teams trained in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention.
- Expanded Anti-Bullying and Conflict Resolution Programs.

Equipment:

- Completion of the installation of an electronic access system to all of our buildings.
- Upgrade our transportation digital video cameras and equipment.
- Our student record software will receive an upgraded discipline tracking system.
- Additional security surveillance cameras throughout the district.

The Federal Government recognizes that the Waterford school-community partnerships are embedded, longstanding relationships committed to the success of our students. This grant award reinforces the unique bond the Waterford community has with the District. We are very pleased and proud to receive this highly competitive grant, which attracted 355 applications nationally. Fifty-seven grants were awarded in 27 states. The Waterford School District is one of two in Michigan, and the only District in Oakland County, to receive the grant award. Nadine Milostan, Director of Student Support Services, and her team of grant writers, deserve a special thanks for making this grant a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Neu". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Robert R. Neu
Superintendent of Schools