



MEDIA RELEASE

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Governor Bredesen, Anderson County Delegation Announce School Health Grants

Nashville, TN – Governor Phil Bredesen along with Senator Randy McNally, Representative Jim Hackworth and Representative Les Winningham today announced \$260,000 in grants for school systems in Anderson County to continue Coordinated School Health Partnerships. Anderson County Schools will receive \$100,000; Clinton City Schools will receive \$80,000; and Oak Ridge City Schools will receive \$80,000.

"I am pleased to know that we can continue to support local school students with funding that will provide them the resources necessary to protect the physical, mental and emotional health of Tennessee's students," Gov. Bredesen said. "A student's health can support or hinder academic success and it is our responsibility to ensure a stronger generation through partnerships like the Coordinated School Health initiative and CoverKids."

Since piloting 10 partnerships in 2002, Tennessee has dedicated a steady stream of funding that has in turn resulted in an additional \$4 million gain at the district level as the result of partnerships developed by local CSH Coordinators. Through these partnerships, families, community members and schools are brought together to focus on health awareness, physical activity, healthy nutrition and counseling services.

"Health education for children is more important than ever and with continued funding, we can make changes across the board that will influence our students now and as adults," Sen. McNally said.

Each year, school systems can reapply for the grant that provides for or continues support of a full time CSH Coordinator, assistants if needed, basic office supplies or travel expenses. Assembled teams at the local level build relationships with local agencies, write grant applications and collect data.

"Establishing a foundation of healthy living is something we can do for each student that will support their academic success not only in the early years, but as they mature to the high school and college level," Rep. Winningham said.

"Having a healthy school environment is essential to having healthy and productive students," Rep. Hackworth said. "We are wise to encourage more partnerships like we've seen in the past that benefit not only our children, but our communities as a whole."

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