



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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## Governor Bredesen, Legislators Announce \$100,000 for Afterschool Programs

Nashville, TN – Governor Phil Bredesen, Senator Randy McNally, Representative Jim Hackworth and Representative Les Wittingham today announced \$100,000 in new Lottery for Education Afterschool Programs grants for Glenwood Elementary School in Oak Ridge City Schools. LEAP grants are awarded for educationally based afterschool programs designed to reinforce the school curriculum. The department is pleased to award LEAP grants to 97 programs in 57 counties. These programs are funded with unclaimed lottery prize money.

"In order to give every student the best chance, we must provide opportunities for them to grow through enrichment activities or to get extra help to stay on track for graduation," Governor Bredesen said. "Students want to succeed and offering these programs helps them do so."

Afterschool programs funded with LEAP grants must operate 15 hours a week and serve at least 50 percent students who are educationally at-risk due to their school's performance, their economic or home background or their own academic performance. Priority is given to programs where 80 percent of participating students are at-risk.

"Afterschool programs are an excellent tool for reinforcing the knowledge and skills taught in school and that learning is fun," Sen. McNally said. "The more students are exposed to the skills and knowledge they need, the better they will be able to use them for their own success after high school."

"Students need to understand how academics relate to their life outside of school," Rep. Hackworth said. "These programs help build those connections, as well as the appreciation for how each piece of knowledge gained enhances their life."

"These programs give many students a constructive and refreshing way to spend their time after school," Rep. Wittingham said. "It is one way to show students that learning does not stop when the final bell rings, but continues throughout life."

These programs serve students ages five to 18 years old. Acceptable programs include those focusing on reading, math, science or computer literacy skills; academic mentoring or tutoring assistance; or sports or leisure opportunities. Learn more about the LEAP grants at <http://www.tennessee.gov/education/learningsupport/afterschool/index.shtml>.

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