
U.S. Representative

John Spratt

South Carolina # 5th District

News Release

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**Chester County School District Wins
Grant for Model Learning Program**

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that Chester County School District has won a grant from the Department of Education to establish model after-school learning centers at Chester, Lewisville and Great Falls high schools.

“This grant comes from a new program called “21st Century Community Learning Centers,” said Spratt. “Secretary Riley initiated the program, and I have worked the Budget Committee hard to get it funded. I am delighted to see Chester County win some of that money.”

Spratt said the school district will receive an estimated \$404,357 in first-year funding.

The idea behind the new program is to make broader use of school facilities as learning centers for the entire community. “The core idea,” said Spratt, “is to use the public schools for more than just eight hours a day and nine months a year, and to serve more than just those between ages 5 and 18.”

To win a grant, school districts must provide at least four of the following services: adult literacy classes; children’s day care; summer and weekend classes; expanded library hours; telecommunications and technology education for individuals of all ages; parenting classes; employment counseling, job training, and placement; and services for students who left school before receiving a high school diploma.

Chester’s learning centers will serve 5,100 middle and high school students and county residents. The program will stress the involvement of parents in their children’s education, and resource teams from several agencies will provide counseling, health care, and social services.

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