
U.S. Representative

John Spratt

South Carolina # 5th District

News Release

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

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that Darlington County School District has won a grant from the Department of Education to establish model after-school learning centers at five elementary 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 Darlington County win some of that money.”

Spratt said the school district will receive an estimated \$765,370 in the first year of the program to set up learning centers at Lamar, Rosenwald, Spaulding, St. John’s, and Thornwell elementary schools.

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.

Darlington’s learning centers will serve 1,400 elementary 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.

The learning center grant is the second Darlington County School District has won this year. In May, Spratt announced that the school district would receive \$384,053 for a learning center to serve 525 seventh-grade students and county residents.

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