

Dear Parents,

My name is Matt Stein and I am a physical education teacher here at South Colonie. I am writing to inform you of some very exciting news. The South Colonie physical education department has received a federal Carol M. White PEP grant, which means that over the next two-and-a-half years our program will benefit from \$1.7 million in federal funding.

What does this mean for your children? This funding is for the development of a new, cutting-edge physical education curriculum. We will be able to transform our existing gym spaces and include exciting interactive fitness technology. All of our improvements will be designed to better motivate students in their physical education classes, thereby improving their overall fitness and health. In short, we will be able to use this money to develop the best possible physical education programs for your children.

It is important to note that the grant does have some limitations. The first being that it must be used for physical education, so it cannot be used to offset budget reductions in other areas. The money also cannot be used to construct new facilities, like a new gym.

One thing we are required to do with the grant is report various physical fitness results from our students. Beginning in early January 2014, we will be obtaining these results during 3 specific data collection periods each school year for the next two-and-a-half years. For each data collection period, we will randomly select approximately 35 students per grade level. This selection will be completely random, so there is a possibility that your child could be chosen to participate. There is, of course, also a possibility that your child will not be selected to participate in data collection.

If your child is selected, you will be notified in advance. Students will be asked to complete a survey, a fitness test in physical education, and wear a pedometer for 4-7 days depending on their age. The pedometers will be clipped on the shoe and can be moved from shoe to shoe very easily. The students will be asked to wear the pedometers for an assigned amount of time during all activity, including things like walking in school or out to dinner with their family.

The only data collected from the child is the amount of steps they are taking during any given period. Rest assured, all data collected is completely anonymous and will not be tracked back to your child at any time. The data collected is reported to the grant administrators in the form of graphs and charts not using any student names. We will use these "samples" of students as indicators of student fitness district wide.

We do ask that if you have any questions or concerns regarding the PEP grant or data collection at any time, or wish to opt out of this process, please feel free to contact me at pep@southcolonie.k12.ny.us. For more details you can join us for an informational forum on Monday January 13, 2014 in the High school Auditorium.

Yours,

Matt Stein
PEP Grant Manager
pep@southcolonie.k12.ny.us