



“Together We Overcome”

NOTICE:

The Blackfoot School District would like to announce our intent to apply for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Grant. The grant application is titled, “Positive Opportunities Program” (POP) and is intended to provide after school programming at 4 eligible elementary schools starting the 2021-2022 school year. If you have any questions about the grant proposal please contact:

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Grant Abstract: Providing learning experiences to help all students grow and develop as individuals, citizens, and successful students is a priority for the Blackfoot School District. Access to these experiences is not always equal for all students, especially with the growing culturally, linguistically, and socio-economically diverse families and communities found in the district. Many students struggle to see opportunities in their lives beyond high school graduation and in their current situation do not even consider college a viable opportunity. Students of this nature do not often have the resources available to overcome this so-called “opportunity gap.” Thus, meeting the growing need to provide a safe afterschool learning environment that encourages and promotes academic achievement, pro-social behaviors and interactions along with family and community involvement has become an increasing challenge. **Positive Opportunity Program (POP)** will provide social and educational opportunities to narrow the opportunity gap through authentic experiences that focus on the whole child. 21st Century inquiry and problem solving skills, a pro-social program called Sources of Strength, and a focus on strengthening academic achievement through science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) will also provide the gateway for career and college ready students. The Migrant Outreach Center, in collaboration with the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), will provide parent and adult education classes. Parents will receive training to help their students be successful in a 21st Century oriented school environment. Each center will address how to provide intervention activities as well as enrichment for the students. STEAM learning activities will be shared at a Family Night Showcase three times per year in addition to five other parent related activities. These showcase events will feature individual student projects and presentations related to STEAM. Real world problem-solving will be supported by staff as well as our Family Engagement Coordinator. The curriculum choices will align with the Idaho Core Standards. The effect of the program will range from increased academic achievement and improved attendance to dramatic reductions in problem behaviors.

All students, who are eligible to participate under this program, will be welcome, including non-public school students in the school’s geographical area. Non-traditional students will be informed of program opportunities by the Communications Specialist through local media, the newspaper, and the district website. Outreach efforts will be made through media and newsletters to all students and families in the school district. **POP**, along with families and community partners, will focus on project/community-based learning programs to close the opportunity gap and prepare these students for a more successful school experience. With collaboration from community partners, including our partnership with the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), **POP** will succeed in positively influencing children, families, and the community.