Written by M. McNeil
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A Rock Island Elementary School will begin offering afterschool programs beginning today (Monday) thanks to a new federal grant

(Rock Island, IL) Earl Hanson has been given a $138,000 annual federal grant to provide educational and enrichment activities for struggling students after school. The school will receive $138,000 each year for five years.

Earl Hanson joins the long list of Lights ON for Learning Community Learning Centers (CLCs) that have received grants over the past eleven years and will now be hanging a bright yellow Lights ON banner in their entrance. The RIROE is the fiscal agent and project manager. This is the eleventh 21st CCLC grant the Rock Island School District has received over the years for seven different RI schools. Judy Hipskind will be the Lights ON Site Coordinator for Earl Hanson. Hipskind, an experienced 21st CCLC grant coordinator, has worked with the former Lincoln School program and is currently with the RI Academy. Programming begins January 14th.

The money is part of a $14 million dollar 21st Century Community Learning Center grant the Illinois State Board of Education recently announced. These programs are expected to serve more than 13,600 students from 110 Illinois schools state-wide.
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The 21st CCLC grant program provides academic interventions to help students meet Illinois state standards. The program also offers a variety of enrichment opportunities for students and their families, including life skills, art, music, recreation, technology classes, and character education.

“After-school programs keep students active and engaged in learning outside school hours,” said State Superintendent of Education Christopher A. Koch said in a news release. “But those positive afterschool experiences — new opportunities or time with mentors — often inspire new and continued motivation in the classroom.”

Illinois receives funds for the program based on a formula from the U.S. Department of Education. A total of $14 million was available for Fiscal Year 2013 awards through a competitive grant process. The agency received 104 proposals, totaling more than $33 million from 29 school districts, 50 community- and faith-based organizations, two universities and six regional offices of education. Thirty-seven 21st CCLC grants on behalf of 110 schools were awarded while 67 proposals were not recommended for funding. The 2013 grantees can be renewed for four years but subsequent fiscal years depend upon a sufficient appropriation for the program and satisfactory progress in the previous grant period.