

BOCES receives physical education grant

Written by Holyoke Enterprise



Physical education teachers from 12 Northeast Colorado BOCES consortium districts gathered Monday, April 16 in Haxtun for training. Pictured from left, front row, Levi Kramer, Wray; Angela DePue, Wray; Tara Hettinger, Buffalo; Cutter Garrison, Holyoke; John Barber, Buffalo; John Cure, Wray; Brad Heinz, Platte Valley; Tim Smock, Akron; and Scott Sorensen, Plateau; and back row, Steve Brittenham, Colorado Health Foundation, training facilitator; Sue Brittenham, Colorado Health Foundation, grant technical advisor and training facilitator; Mike Harty, Lone Star; Megan Martinez, Yuma; Melissa Deyle, Wray; LeAnn Sanford, Julesburg; Ryan Burkholder, Yuma; Beth Monheiser, Frenchman; Michael Dischner, Yuma; Rich Gerck, Haxtun; Bonnie Wallen-Kuntz, Otis; Chad Hoschouer, Platte Valley; Kyle Bules, Holyoke; and Wendy Lynch, Yuma.

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Northeast Colorado BOCES is the recipient of the “Physical Education Quality Improvement” grant funded by the Colorado Health Foundation in the amount of \$822,296.

The grant is a three-year collaborative commitment of the 12 consortium districts to increase the number students (K-12) participating in vigorous physical activity. Grant programming will focus on providing professional development for PE teachers, selecting a common PE curriculum and major purchases of PE equipment for elementary, middle and high schools.

Partner districts include Akron R-1, Buffalo Re-4J, Frenchman Re-3, Haxtun Re-2J, Holyoke Re-1J, Julesburg Re-1, Lone Star #101, Otis R-3, Plateau Re-5, Platte Valley Re-3, Wray RD-2 and Yuma-1, with NE BOCES providing administration, grant management and fiscal services.

“We believe providing kids the opportunity for physical activity during the school day is vital for improving physical and mental health. Research proves that active, healthy children perform better in school,” said Kelly Dunkin, vice president of philanthropy for the Colorado Health Foundation.

“According to the 2011 Colorado Health Report Card, only 64.1 percent of school-age children participated in vigorous physical activity for four or more days per week. By partnering with the Northeast Colorado BOCES, we support their crucial role of improving the quality of physical education and increase moderate and vigorous physical activity for students in northeast Colorado.”

The Colorado Health Foundation works to make Colorado the healthiest state in the nation by investing in grants and initiatives to health-related nonprofits that focus on increasing the number of Coloradans with health insurance, ensuring they have access to quality, coordinated care and encouraging healthy living.

For more information, visit www.ColoradoHealth.org .

The first milestone of the grant was a training for PE teachers from the twelve participating districts Monday, April 16 of “Unpacking the Physical Education Standards,” a training funded

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by the Colorado Health Foundation.

In addition, the workshop will set the stage for teams of PE teachers to work during the summer in preparation for a common PE curriculum selection funded by the grant. The implementation of the standards and curriculum will begin in 2012-13 and will lay the foundation to incorporate key equipment for physical activity.

Holyoke Enterprise April 26, 2012