

Rothman Secures Funds For Local After-School Programs

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Hackensack and Teaneck Public Schools to receive \$75,000 each

Washington, DC -- Following appeals from Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) to fellow members of the House Appropriations Committee, the U.S. House of Representatives today approved \$150,000 for Hackensack and Teaneck Public Schools to fund after-school programs that will provide the students in those schools with a safe environment to receive additional assistance with their schoolwork.

"With after-school programs in place, parents will have the comfort of knowing that their child's school day, and the safe environment that comes with it, doesn't have to end when the last bell rings," Rothman said. "The after-school time period can often be the most dangerous time of day for children. These new after-school programs will keep young people off the streets and provide a positive atmosphere to help them improve their schoolwork." Hackensack intends to use the funds for an after-school program at the Jackson Avenue School for 200 pre-kindergarten-to-fifth grade students. In addition to educational programs with a focus on science, arts and crafts, and music during after-school hours, help would also be offered on Saturdays. The curriculum will be supplemented by community guest speakers and counselors to emphasize the prevention of substance abuse and violence. Additionally, the program will include parental involvement in the children's activities and provide learning opportunities for those adults who participate.

Teaneck would like to focus its funds on after-school programs at Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson Middle Schools for 400 fifth-to-eighth grade students. The program is designed to have parents, teachers, community artists, senior citizens, and high school students serve as mentors and role models in a curriculum designed to build academic and life skills.

"Through more individualized attention, children will be able to receive the targeted help they need with their schoolwork and in turn become better students," Rothman said. "With a strong focus on parental and community involvement, these after-school programs will help strengthen relationships between parents and their children, while also helping students gain a sense of community and personal responsibility."

The Labor, Health and Human Service, and Education Appropriations bill is one of 13 spending bills Congress is required to pass each year. Following Senate approval later this week, the measure will head to the White House where the president is expected to sign the bill into law.

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