

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Publicizing intent to apply required by federal regulations)

### **NCSS Hopes to Extend and Expand After School Programs through Grant Applications**

The Newton County School System is collaborating with the Newton County Community Partnership and other partners to apply for federal funds through Georgia's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning grant programs to extend and expand its existing 21stCCLC After School Academic Program (ASAP). The school district is applying for additional grants to extend current programs at Porterdale and Middle Ridge Elementary Schools, Liberty Middle School, and Washington Street Community Center for an additional five years. These schools are in their final year of funding from a grant received in FY 2010. In addition, the district hopes to receive funds to expand the program to include four additional schools: Clements, Cousins, and Veterans Memorial Middle Schools and Alcovy High School. Receiving the grants will increase the total number of tuition-free after school programs for underachieving and economically disadvantaged students to eleven sites serving over 600 students. NCSS also received an FY 2012 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant and implemented after school programs at West Newton Elementary School, Indian Creek Middle School, and Newton High School. In addition to the federally funded programs, NCSS has tuition-based after school programs, serving another 600 students at 10 elementary schools.

The Newton County ASAP program is designed to provide additional opportunities for a) academic enrichment and remediation through a blended instructional model combining direct teacher instruction and computer assisted instruction, individual tutoring, homework assistance, and credit recovery at the high school; b) counseling and instruction in life, work, and study skills; c) career and college exploration; d) participation in the arts, fitness and recreation, and special interest activities and clubs; and e) parent participation in programs to improve individual

literacy and parenting skills. Newton County's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC ASAP programs will operate Monday-Friday 2:15-6:00 at the elementary schools and 4:15-6:45 at the middle schools and Monday-Thursday 3:30-6:30 at the high schools. Lessons in the core academic areas, as well as elective and special interest areas, will be planned to meet the needs of individual students and small groups. Learning will be extended through special projects and field trips. Parents will have opportunities to improve parenting and literacy skills through programs such as *Nurturing Parenting*, and Adult Literacy, ESOL, and GED Preparation classes. Expected outcomes include improvements in grades, test scores, class participation, homework completion, and discipline, as well as increased parent involvement with their teens and adolescents.

The applications for FY 2012 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant funds are due in the Georgia Department of Education by February 27, 2012. They will be available for public review at the Newton County School System administrative offices beginning March 1. For further information regarding Newton County's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs or the grant application process, contact Deena Sams, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC ASAP Program Director, or Dr. Kathy Garber, Grants Coordinator, at (770) 787-1330.