



Fast Facts About RCEF Programs for 2008/09

Outdoor Education

Cost:

- RCEF contribution: \$40,000; amount per student: \$46.
- Pays for transportation costs, program coordinator for district, and teacher stipends.

Program:

- Serves 900 5th graders, on average, each year.
- Week-long residential program at YMCA Camp Jones Gulch, near La Honda.
- Students develop skills in physical sciences, mathematics, and language arts through hands-on exploration of the natural environment.
- Lays the groundwork for studies in middle school.
- Supported by the RCEF since 1992
- Past partner: Abbott Laboratories

Need:

- First time many students have spent away from home.
- Only time many students have been to camp or in the wilderness.
- The learning and excitement shared with friends and classmates is often mentioned by graduating high school students as the highlight of their school years.

Music for Learning

Cost:

- RCEF contribution in 2007/08: \$130,000; amount per student: \$50; amount per grade: \$44,000.

Program:

- Serves 3,000 2nd through 4th grade students per year, on average
- Employs credentialed music teachers.
- 2nd and 3rd graders learn the fundamentals of rhythm, pitch, and tempo; 4th graders learn to play the recorder and perform as a group.
- Prepares students for the district's instrumental program for 5th to 8th graders and opportunities such as the Peninsula Youth Orchestra.
- Supported by the RCEF since 1996
- Partners have included Redwood City Civic & Cultural Commission, Westly Foundation.

Need:

- For many students, this is their only exposure to music education and their only chance to learn to play an instrument.
- Numerous studies have proven the value of music instruction in improving academic achievement and developing critical thinking and collaborative skills, as well as giving students the opportunity to develop their musical gifts in their critical childhood years.
- No recorded human society has ever been without music.

Wellness Coordinator

Cost:

- RCEF contribution: \$60,000; amount per student: \$8.

Program:

- Serves 8,500 students in the district's 16 public schools.
- Employs a full-time, credentialed teacher to research and provide opportunities to improve fitness and nutrition instruction; work with teachers to develop curriculum material; establish partnerships with community and government resources; and help cafeterias provide healthy food choices.
- 3-year pilot project supported by Kaiser Permanente and Sequoia Hospital (Catholic Healthcare West).
- Funded by the RCEF since 2006.
- Partners: Kaiser Permanente and Sequoia Hospital.

Need:

- Well-nourished, physically fit children are ready and able to learn and achieve.
- District expects teachers to provide PE at the elementary level; only 9 schools have PE programs paid for by parent or outside funders, and these do not necessarily have credentialed teachers or follow the California State Standards.
- In 2007/08, only 27% of 5th graders met all 6 criteria in the state's physical fitness test, and only 26% of 8th graders met all 6 criteria.
- In 2004, over 25% of children in San Mateo County were overweight.
- RCSD is one of the few districts in the state to provide a full-time staff person to implement its Wellness Policy. This policy is mandated by the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004

SMART Grants

Cost:

- RCEF contribution: \$100,000; amount per student approximately \$115.

Program:

- Serves 8,500 students in the district's 16 public schools.
- Grants for every school to bring innovation in teaching in science, math, literacy, the arts, and technology into the classroom.
- Supported by the RCEF since 2008.
- Partners for 2007/08: Oracle and the Westly Foundation.

Need:

- Budget cuts and narrowing curriculum, due to requirements of No Child Left Behind Act, have reduced principal discretion and flexibility.
- Many schools do not have viable parent/school organizations to raise funds for science workshops, field trips, arts-focused assemblies, or other supplementary programs.