



News Release

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Two Surrey schools selected for international healthy school study

Queen Elizabeth Secondary and Woodland Park Elementary are two of only eleven schools in North America chosen to participate in an international “Healthy School Communities” pilot study conducted by a U.S.-based education research institution.

The two Surrey School District schools each receive a \$10,000 grant to support their work in the study. Nearly 300 schools from the U.S. and Canada had applied to participate in the program aimed at improving the health and well-being of students.

The program is conducted by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) as part of its worldwide effort to promote the integration of health and learning and the benefits of school-community partnerships. ASCD is a U.S.-based, non-profit association providing resources for education leaders around the world.

“To have not one, but two of our schools chosen by such a prestigious, international educational institution is a wonderful recognition of the commitment and expertise of the school staffs and our district,” says Surrey School Board chair Shawn Wilson. “The teachers and education leaders in our district are truly world-class in many ways and it’s wonderful when their work receives the recognition it deserves. The board, as well as the students and parents of our district are very well served.”

Representatives from Queen Elizabeth and Woodland Park schools have attended a two-day training session in Alexandria, Virginia to prepare for the Healthy School Community pilot study. The program involves school staff, students and parents working together to enhance and sustain the development of healthy students – physically, socially and emotionally.

During the training session in Virginia, the teams met with other pilot school teams to develop a community network of healthy schools. Teams will now begin to assess the health-related aspects of their learning environments and use the results for school improvement and community engagement.

An integral aspect of the study is the Healthy School Communities website which provides the eleven schools in the pilot program an assessment tool called the “Healthy Schools Report Card”. The website also provides a forum for the group members to discuss best practices and share questions throughout the study.

More information about the ASCD and the study is available at www.healthyschoolcommunities.org and at www.ascd.org.

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