

## SEEDS After School programming expanding to 11 schools

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TRAVERSE CITY — Local nonprofit SEEDS was awarded new 21st Century Community Learning Center (21CCLC) grants by the Michigan Department of Education for daily after school enrichment activities in partnership with school buildings located in underserved areas.

These grant awards renewed funding for all current SEEDS After School sites and provide funding for four additional school sites, bringing SEEDS After School programs to 11 different local schools.

“It is so exciting to continue our existing community partnerships and also to expand this great programming to new communities! It’s an amazing opportunity to connect more youth with mentors and outdoor education,” said Nicole Heffelfinger, SEEDS After School Program Director.

Renewal sites include Rapid City Elementary, Fife Lake Elementary, Mesick (Floyd M. Jewett) Elementary, Kaleva Norman Dickson Elementary, Brethren Middle School, and Forest Area Middle School. This fall, programs will be added in Marion Elementary, Betsie Valley Elementary, Cherry Street Intermediate, and Benzie Central Middle School.

SEEDS After School programming began in 2009, placing a heavy focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) as well as getting students out-of-doors and active. Students at 21CCLC sites will have access to FREE programming, four days per week and during the summer. This academic year, SEEDS has already served over 350 unique students with nearly 30,000 hours of academic and cultural enrichment.

“We are deeply honored to partner with the administration, staff, and the parents at these schools,” says Sarna Salzman SEEDS Executive Director, “Investing in youth is an investment in the future – our collective future. A student’s success is a community success and organizationally we can think of no better response to the challenges we all face than providing quality educational opportunities.”

Information about each current After School site can be found on the SEEDS website under “Teaching and Learning”. More information about the new sites will be available in the fall. Questions can be directed to [hello@ecoseeds.org](mailto:hello@ecoseeds.org).