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### **Time to submit Notice of Intent to Apply for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant funding**

PIERRE, S.D. – Now is the time for schools and other organizations interested in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, or 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC, grants to submit a Notice of Intent to Apply.

The learning centers are intended to assist students from high-poverty and low-performing schools in need of additional support by providing academic enrichment opportunities and activities designed to complement regular school instruction. Funding comes from the federal government in the form of formula grants to the states.

The grant application will be online, and applicants must first submit a Notice of Intent to Apply to the South Dakota Department of Education by Jan. 19. Applicants will then receive the information needed to access the online system. The deadline to apply is March 2. No paper applications will be accepted.

The Notice of Intent to Apply and guidelines for filling out the application are now available and can be found at <http://www.doe.sd.gov/oatq/21cent.aspx>.

Grant award amounts range from \$50,000 to \$150,000 per year, and the length of a grant is five years. While funds are often awarded to schools, other organizations are also eligible to apply. The grants must specifically support programs offered outside of regular school hours.

“Afterschool programming plays a vital role in student success,” said Sue Burgard, who helps oversee the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant program for the South Dakota Department of Education. “Students served by 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers get to have fun while participating in highly enriching programming that serves as a strong supplement to their daily school work.”

Contact Sue Burgard at [sue.burgard@state.sd.us](mailto:sue.burgard@state.sd.us) or 605-773-5238, with questions about the grant application process.