

East End Community School Receives \$2.7 Million Grant

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East End Community School (EECS) in Portland has extended its school day by a half-hour and added a new program, Rise and Shine, to provide additional learning opportunities for students. That is one of several changes underway at the Munjoy Hill school aimed at improving academic performance of students in kindergarten through grade five.

EECS has received a federal School Improvement Grant totaling \$2,748,663 over three years. In addition to lengthening the school day, the grant will allow EECS to:

- Purchase technology for classrooms and students.
- Provide more professional development for teachers and other staff members.
- Embark on a visioning effort with parents and community members.
- Make other instructional improvements to boost student achievement and develop critical thinking and communication skills.

EECS was one of only four Maine schools awarded School Improvement Grants this year. EECS received most of Maine's \$5 million allocation for its innovative plan to become a model of 21st century learning.

The school's Rise and Shine program will take place each morning from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m. Staff and community partners will organize and lead activities such as Zumba and other types of exercise, extra support in math and reading, project-based learning, visual and performing arts and community service. The school's extended learning coordinator will oversee the program.

"The Rise and Shine program will help build a sense of community and belonging, allow students to make choices and prepare them to focus on the academic portion of their day," said EECS Principal Marcia Gendron. The school will adjust its schedule to reserve long, uninterrupted blocks of time for literacy and math instruction.

Later in the school year, EECS will use grant funding to install SmartBoards in each classroom and to provide iPads for every third, fourth and fifth grader and iPod Touches for English language learners. The teaching staff will use the fall months to develop plans for integrating the new technology effectively into the curriculum to enhance learning.

The grant also will fund community partnerships, creation of a Parent Council, a visioning process for the school, professional development in effective strategies for teaching literacy and math and a new system for evaluating teachers.

- [Press Release](#)

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