



PRESS RELEASE

Prince George's County Public Schools • www.pgcps.org
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ALLIANCE FOR A HEALTHIER GENERATION'S HEALTHY SCHOOLS PROGRAM RECEIVES \$1 MILLION EXPANSION GRANT

Support from Michael & Susan Dell Foundation Will Bring Program to Prince George's County, Maryland Schools

NEW YORK, NY – The Alliance for a Healthier Generation – a joint venture between the William J. Clinton Foundation and the American Heart Association, combating childhood obesity in the United States – and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, announced today an expansion of the Alliance's Healthy Schools Program to Maryland's Prince George's County Public Schools. The Healthy Schools Program helps schools develop and implement policies and practices that promote healthy eating and increased physical activity for students and staff.

"The Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Healthy Schools Program will soon start its third district-wide implementation thanks to the generous support of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation," said President Clinton, who co-leads the Alliance with California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and American Heart Association President Tim Gardner, M.D., FAHA. "I am so excited that the Healthy Schools Program will impact the lives of children throughout Prince George's County by working with their schools to create healthier environments."

The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation's four-year, \$1 million grant to the Alliance will enable the Healthy Schools Program to be implemented district-wide in Prince George's County Public Schools. With 207 schools and approximately 133,000 students, the Prince George's County Public School District is the second largest school system in Maryland and the 18th largest in the nation. The Alliance will hire local staff to provide support and resources to every school in the district; build the capacity of the Prince George's County Public Schools to maintain the Healthy Schools Program after the four year grant period; evaluate the program's impact on affecting tangible changes in the school environment

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(such as increased time for health education or improved quality of school meals); and disseminate lessons learned and best practices for creating healthier school environments locally and nationally.

"Helping students make choices that will keep them strong and healthy is as important as a science or math lesson," said Dr. Tim Gardner, president of the American Heart Association and Medical Director for the Center for Heart & Vascular Health at Christiana Care (DE). "I am pleased that this grant will allow the Alliance to help schools across Prince George's County teach students how to make these healthy choices and create healthier environments for students and staff."

The program launches this month in approximately 70 schools throughout Prince George's County. Additional schools will be added during the next two years. The Alliance will support school and district level efforts to:

- Encourage the alignment of policies and contracts to Alliance School Beverage & Competitive Food Guidelines for foods sold outside of the school meals program.
- Facilitate the implementation of more quality physical education and health education.
- Increase the number of healthy food and beverage options offered as a part of the school meals program.
- Improve opportunities for students to be physically active before, during and after the school day.

"In Prince George's County Public Schools, our first core belief is that children ARE our business – and THEY come first," said Verjeana M. Jacobs, Esq., Chair, Prince George's County Board of Education. "The opportunity to implement the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Healthy Schools Program district-wide reinforces this belief and provides the support we need to establish and promote healthier school environments for all of our students. My sincere appreciation is extended to the American Heart Association, the William J. Clinton Foundation and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation for supporting Prince George's County public schools in ensuring a healthier future for our students."

"We believe it's important to unite school, family, community, policy and the children themselves in order to effect lasting behavioral change," said Susan Dell, co-founder, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation. "As such, we are dedicated to supporting new ways to drive sustainable, systemic change across large school districts and underserved student populations. The expansion of the Alliance Healthy Schools Program into Prince George's County accelerates what we have begun in Miami-Dade County with the goal of reducing childhood obesity and instilling life-long, healthy habits in children across the United States."

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The Prince George's County Public School District is among the most diverse in the nation. Seventy-six percent of Prince George's County students are African American, 15 percent are Hispanic, approximately five percent are Caucasian, and approximately four percent are from other or mixed ethnic backgrounds.

About The Alliance for a Healthier Generation

The American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation partnered in May 2005 to create a new generation of healthy Americans by addressing one of the nation's leading public health threats – childhood obesity. The Alliance focuses on preventing childhood obesity and creating healthier lifestyles for all children, and targets several areas to spark change and reduce rates of childhood obesity in the United States. The Alliance focuses on four key areas: industry, schools, healthcare and kids. For more information visit www.HealthierGeneration.org.

About The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (www.msdf.org) is dedicated to improving the lives of children living in urban poverty around the world. With offices in Austin, TX and New Delhi, India, the Dell family foundation funds programs that foster high-quality public education and childhood health, and improve the economic stability of families living in poverty. With an endowment of \$1.3 billion, the foundation has committed almost \$450 million to global children's issues and community initiatives to date.

About Prince George's County Public Schools

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is Maryland's second largest school system and the nation's 18th largest district, providing 130,000 children an innovative, technology-infused curriculum, which has produced improved Maryland School Assessment scores in reading and mathematics for five years in a row – reaching the highest achievement levels in the school district since 2003. Contributing to this success, the Prince George's County Board of Education adopted a Wellness, Nutrition, and Physical Activity policy for all schools in 2006. The Prince George's County Board of Education is committed to healthy schools and lifestyles, providing a total learning environment that enhances the development of lifelong healthy habits in wellness, nutrition, and regular physical activity.