



# R.E.A.C.H. After School Program

## 21st Century Community Learning Center

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Dawn Fickett- Program Director

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family doing well and having enjoyed a healthy and fun summer break. I wanted to reach out to you to explain how the R.E.A.C.H. After School Program will be moving forward this school year and how some of these changes may impact your child's continued participation for our 20/21 school year. After many hours of meetings, planning, and replanning, we were finally able to roll out a path that will allow us to continue to offer after school programming to our students while following all district and state guidelines, thus receiving the green light from our school district to move forward with finalizing a R.E.A.C.H. fall program. We inevitably had to restructure our programming to align with our district COVID-19 response protocols, and specifically in supporting the district's classroom cohort model. In light of these district changes, we have had to revamp our program in the following ways:

- R.E.A.C.H. Participants will remain in their classroom cohorts.
- We are moving to an invitation only model to better support programming within the school-day cohort model. We will be collaborating with our grade level teachers at all schools and sending out invitations to recommended students. This means that not all students who participated in last year's program will be able to participate during this school year. Teachers will be encouraged to consider students that had previously attended our program, ultimately however, students will be chosen based on their academic need. Invitations will be sent out in the coming weeks.
- To better serve all grade levels under our 21st CCLC grant, students will participate only two days a week.
- Until further notice, we will not be able to offer bussing to our R.E.A.C.H. participants. We understand that for many families transportation is a big deciding factor for their child's participation in our program. We are working hard to be able to offer bussing once again, and hope to have a late bus option available at some point during the year.

- We will not be shuttling students from one school to another. Bloomfield will serve grades 1-3, Margaret Chase will serve grades 4 and 5, and Skowhegan Area Middle School will serve grades 6-8. We unfortunately will not be able to provide after school programming to this year's kindergarten class.

We understand that some of these changes may impact your child's continued participation in our program. We certainly hope that in the future, we may resume a more "typical" after school program model, and thank you for your understanding and support as we move forward in our current reality of in person programming. If your child is not able to participate in our program this year, please know that this does not mean that they will not be able to participate in future years. The R.E.A.C.H. After School Program is committed to moving our community forward through collaborative partnerships that create quality out-of-school programming for children and families, while providing a safe, structured and supportive environment. We thank you for being a part of our R.E.A.C.H. family and for our continued support!

Sincerely,

Dawn Fickett

21st CCLC Program Director