

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WICHITA'S "PROJECT WEST" PROGRAM RECEIVES \$482,000;
WILL FUND STUDENT DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON - Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced today that the Department of Education has awarded a \$482,148 grant to the Wichita Public Schools System (USD 259) to fund a demonstration program that will assist with preventing student dropouts. Dole personally wrote Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander earlier this year in support of Wichita's "Project West: A Demonstration Dropout Prevention and Intervention Program."

"Every child should have the chance to get an education and have the opportunity to become a productive member of society. Education is a top priority for me and I'm pleased that the Bush Administration considers this program worthwhile. Wichita's Project West Program is an outstanding example of a practical approach to a very serious problem. This funding will boost the school system's resources by helping many students get back on track and get a sound education," said Dole.

"With this program, the Wichita schools are seeking to lower the dropout rate, which is expected to exceed 26% in 1991. I hope that the success rate of this program will serve as a model for other schools nationwide," added Dole.

Project West's goal is to develop, implement and evaluate a dropout prevention and intervention program for students at six elementary schools (K-5) which feed into West High School in Wichita. The program identifies students who are considered at-risk for dropping out of school and will then provide services from school social workers, counselors, and nurses to the students and their families to remedy social, educational and home environmental problems, factors which are attributed to the dropout rate. Currently, USD 259 has approximately 2,485 elementary students (K-5) at those six schools. In addition to the federal grant, the program will also receive a 10% local matching grant.

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