

# Mapleton school selected for federal intervention grant

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Meadow Community K-8 school might be a Title I school in Mapleton, but its students are not wasting any time improving their assessment scores.

Meadow Community School was selected as a recipient of the federal Tiered Intervention Grant (TIG), which is based off of student performance on the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) test results in 2010 and before. However, after five years of declining test scores, Meadow students improved one level to accreditation with a improvement plan on the state's accreditation scale.

"We are happy to say that has changed a little bit this past year," said school director Lisa Marchi of her school's test scores.

The school still has a long way to go, but now has the federal dollars to help it get there. Based on Meadow's 2010 test results, it was identified in the bottom 5 percent of performing schools in the state and qualified for TIG dollars, said Mapleton Assistant Superintendent Jackie Kapushion.

The school will receive

\$965,000 over a three-year period to improve the student performance and staff support. The school will be front loading the spending of the funds, Kapushion said, to ensure that the changes being put in place are helpful for the longest period of time and as sustainable as possible.

"We'll scale down in each year, so that the school is ready to come off of the grant dollars by the fourth year," Kapushion said.

The school's annual operating budget is \$42,000, said Marchi who now believes she has "won the educational lottery." This influx of funds will allow her to purchase much needed materials that can be used long after the grant dollars have run out.

"We've really been able to look at the path our school has been going down with the school improvement plan and align the grant funds to our school improvement plan. So we're able to work in harmony and really enhance things that our school has already put in place," Marchi said.

The grant will focus on two main things, extended learning opportunities for students

with additional intervention and classroom support and extended learning opportunities for teachers with an increase in teacher resources and support.

One part of the requirements for a TIG school is to overhaul the school's administration, starting at the principal level, and the school's teaching staff. Meadow had already completed those steps two years ago, said Kapushion, so the district was able to work with the Colorado Department of Education to move on to the next step in the grant process.

"We were not going to accept the dollars if it required us to take a step back," Kapushion said. "But because CDE has been so collaborative with us, they allowed us to accept the dollars and keep moving forward with our strategies."

The school was required to draft and submit a grant budget proposal, Marchi said, which was accepted with minor changes by CDE. The school will also be required to do a monthly walk through with a CDE representative to ensure that the school is improving and using the grant dollars appropriately.

## School improvements

Meadow students will now have four days a year with a math coach to improve their performance in that subject area. The school has also been able to more than double the intervention support for children struggling in the classroom from one and half interventionists to three and half over the next three years.

In the past, teachers have shared online subscriptions for teacher resources, but with these grant dollars the school will be able to purchase more resources for teacher development, Marchi said. The school will also be able to fund a full day kindergarten program at

## What is TIG?

A tiered intervention grant is part of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). This grant targets the lowest performing schools in the country based on the state's performance assessments and gives them dollars over a three-year period to improve their student's test scores.

the school, a change which will be sustained after the expiration of the grant, said Marchi, as well as purchasing new books for the school that will be a sustainable investment for the students.

## HAPPENINGS

### BENEFIT

#### Sparkopolis

6-10 p.m. Sept. 24  
Anythink Wright Farms  
5877 E. 120th Ave.  
Thornton

Featuring food by Chef Ian Kleinman; local artists and fashion designers; mixology station with Mai Tais, s'mores; live music. Proceeds to fund Anythink's

Nature Explore children's gardens. Tickets available at [www.anythinklibraries.org/sparkopolis](http://www.anythinklibraries.org/sparkopolis).

#### Life and Works of Scott Joplin

7 p.m. Sept. 24  
Stonehocker Farmhouse  
10950 Fox Run Parkway  
Northglenn  
720-232-4402

Renowned pianist Nancy Storm presents

Please see HAPPENINGS Page 22

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