



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grants perk up playgrounds in Mapleton Public Schools

(Thornton/Denver) – Children in the Mapleton Public Schools community will have new places to run, jump, play and learn thanks to several grants bringing new playgrounds to schools throughout the District.

Educational research continues to draw attention to the importance of designing and treating playgrounds as outdoor learning environments. Beyond exercise, playgrounds are instrumental in facilitating physical, social, emotional and intellectual development in children. Tight and shrinking budgets over the past few years prevented Mapleton Public Schools from updating, repairing, and in many cases installing playgrounds at several K-6, K-8 and K-12 schools. Mapleton Public Schools is actively seeking playground grants as a way to continue to provide rich, comprehensive education for the development of the whole child.

Clayton Partnership School (K-8), Mapleton Toddler Program (location TBD)

Grant Amount: \$166,643

Grand Opening: Clayton: August 2011, Toddler Playground: TBD

The Colorado Health Foundation is generously providing funds to remove the outdated playground equipment at Clayton Partnership School and install new, ADA-friendly equipment and surfacing. Student leaders from Clayton and neighboring schools helped select the new equipment. The Colorado Health Foundation is also providing funding to remove outdated equipment and install a new toddler playground in the School District, location TBD.

York International (K-12)

Grant Amount: \$150,000

Grand Opening: August 2011

The Tri-County Health Department/Communities Putting Prevention to Work Program is generously funding the installation of a new playground. There is currently no playground on site. The equipment, geared toward K-6th graders, will provide the school and surrounding neighborhood with an ADA-friendly playground. Student leaders from York International helped select the new equipment.

Bertha Heid Campus (Explore Elementary K-6, Achieve Academy K-8)

Grant Amount: \$199,974

Grand Opening: Summer 2012

Mapleton Public Schools partnered with Adams County Community Development to receive a Great Outdoors Colorado grant to remove outdated/broken equipment and install new ADA-friendly equipment and surfacing.

Global Leadership Academy (K-12)

Grant Amount: \$49,995

Grand Opening: Spring 2012

Tri-County Health Department/Communities Putting Prevention to Work is funding the installation of a new playground with ADA-friendly equipment and surfacing. Currently, Global Leadership Academy does not have a playground.

About Mapleton Public Schools

Mapleton Public Schools covers 25 square miles in North Denver/Adams County. We serve nearly 8,000 students in suburban, rural, and light industrial communities. We are committed to raising expectations by providing choices for learning and removing obstacles for all students so that we can guarantee that each student "achieves his or her dreams and enthusiastically contributes to his or her community and world." Visit www.mapleton.us to learn more about Mapleton Public Schools.