



Background on the 21st Century Community Learning Center in Kotzebue

In 2012, Southeast Regional Resource Center-SERRC partnered with the Northwest Arctic Borough School District's June Nelson Elementary School to be successfully awarded a 5-year 21st Century Community Learning Center grant.

This grant is federally funded and administered by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. It provides fun academic learning activities during out-of-school hours. Eligible Kindergarten through Grade 2 students to participate in afterschool programs Tuesday –Thursday from 3.30-5.00 pm and regularly scheduled Super Saturdays.

The purpose of the program is to provide opportunities for children to **strengthen academic skills** in literacy, get **homework help**, and **participate in physical, cultural and creative activities** that support individual growth.

The program also recognizes the important role that parents play as their child's first teacher and invites participation in the program on a daily basis or during Super Saturdays. Teachers **welcome parent ideas, skills and knowledge** to be shared, participation in field trips and attendance at any time to show children love and support of their learning.

The 21st Century after-school program also **recognizes the role that the community plays** in developing healthy children connected to the their local environment. Staff strive to introduce these young children to a variety of community businesses and services. If you would welcome children learning more about the work you do, please consider inviting them on a field trip. Or, volunteer to share a skill at school or volunteer as a reading buddy.

Program Mission and Goals

As partners with the NWABSD, SERRC supports the district's strategic plan, which focuses on supporting high quality early childhood programs, creating a balance between academics, fine arts, sports and other activities, modeling positive behaviors and encouraging parents to support their child's education.

The 21st Century program goals are aligned with those of the district by working towards increasing the literacy skills, and strengthening emerging social, cooperative and physical skills of children in grades K-2 while engaging parents in their child's learning and strengthening connections between school and community.

We believe that working together teachers, parents and the community can help develop successful, happy and healthy children.