



**For Immediate Release**  
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Contact: Sarene Wallace  
(805) 373-1100  
Sarene@mayersonmarketing.com

**RIO SCHOOL DISTRICT GRANTS TO HELP HOMELESS FAMILIES,  
INCREASE LITERACY AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Multi-year grants to provide services to support district students, families**

**OXNARD, Calif.**—The Rio School District announces that it has received more than \$6.4 million in grant funding to help homeless students and their families in the district, increase literacy and parent-child relationships, increase technology, and reach out to the Mixteco population. The multi-year grants are part of the district’s mission to educate the “whole child,” providing enrichment and support services that will create long-term benefits for students, families and the community.

“During these times of school budget cuts, these grants are especially important for our struggling students and their families. We know that if we can help our families overcome the barriers of homelessness and adult illiteracy, our students can be more successful learners,” said Superintendent Sherianne Cotterell.

After-school programs at all Rio School District schools will benefit from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant received by the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme. The \$1,070,175 five-year grant will be combined with the ASES grant to fund after-school programs at all district schools. It allows previously funded site programs to increase available spots and provide increased access to the Mixteco population through outreach translators.

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The district received a five-year grant of \$80,000 per year through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant to support the Unity Through Arts – Family Literacy Program, which will be used to increase parent involvement in Rio’s after-school enrichment activities. Families will be invited to participate in a photo storytelling series of classes, will meet children’s book author Dr. Kathleen Contreras and be guided through creating a family story album using cameras and text. The sessions will conclude with a family storytelling event.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Grant of \$138,000, payable over three years, will provide added support to help the district provide services for families who qualify for McKinney-Vento assistance. Families who are experiencing economic hardship and loss of housing, or who are living in substandard living conditions may have access to free food, clothing and referrals to county and city programs offering additional assistance. Qualifying participants will also have access to breakfast and lunch programs at the school sites. Enrichment activities, homework assistance and tutoring are available through this grant. Funds will enable several economically disadvantaged middle school students to participate in the Washington D.C. field trip.

In 2008, the district was awarded the EETT grant, a two-year grant totaling \$542,601. It targets students in fourth through eighth grade who are involved with the AVID program. Through the grant, the district partners with a number of community organizations to help bring additional technology resources to Rio schools, students and teachers. Family resource centers are being created, where parents can use computers.

The Rio School District encompasses six elementary and two middle schools and the

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Rio School District/Grants  
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Community Day School. There are more than 4,400 students in the district, which serves the unincorporated community of El Rio, the RiverPark development and portions of the city of Oxnard. For more information, visit [www.rio.k12.ca.us](http://www.rio.k12.ca.us).

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