



## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program Purpose

Source: Illinois State Plan for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC, ISBE, June 2011, Appendix A, page 29

**Purpose of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC:** Title IV, Part B of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*, as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, authorizes the establishment of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC). The purpose of the program is to provide opportunities for communities to establish or expand activities in community learning centers that serve primarily students who attend eligible schools with a high concentration of students from low-income families:

- Provide academic and enrichment opportunities for children in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 (PreK–12) particularly to help those children who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools meet state and local student academic achievement standards in core academic subjects;

*Core academic subjects:* include English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography;

- Offer academic, artistic, and cultural enrichment opportunities to students and their families. Student activities must be provided during non-school hours (before or after school) or periods when school is not in session (including holidays, weekends, or summer recess). Family activities, however, are not restricted to non-school hours and may take place at any time;
- Offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic programs of participating students. Activities may include youth development activities, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, art, music, and recreation programs, technology education programs, and character education programs; and
- Offer literacy and related educational services to the families of participating children. Community learning centers established under the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program must provide a safe environment for students when school is not in session including safe travel accommodations to and from the center and home.

In addition, the centers may serve the families of participating students by offering literacy and related educational development activities. The term *family* or *parent* in this RFP includes caregivers, guardians, and others, such as grandparents, who act in the stead of a parent.

