Herrin Community Unit School District #4
500 N. 10th Street, Herrin, IL 62948
www.herrinschools.org
eli.osaile@herrinschools.org
(618) 988-8024

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PRESS RELEASE

High-Tech Learning: Local Youth Gain Access to New Tech Through ACT Now Grant

Herrin, IL — Innovative, hands-on learning is taking a massive leap forward for area youth, thanks to funding through the statewide ACT Now Grant initiative. The grant has allowed for the acquisition of cutting-edge educational tools—including two VDI (Virtual Driver Interactive) driving simulators and an advanced Anatomage Medical Table—designed to deliver real-world, high-impact training right here in our community.



The two newly installed VDI driving simulators offer a fully immersive, high-tech approach to driver's education. Featuring panoramic screens and realistic steering and pedal setups, the simulators allow youth to practice navigating hazardous road conditions, distracted driving scenarios, and inclement weather—all within a safe, controlled environment.

For area youth interested in healthcare, sports medicine, or biological sciences, the addition of the Anatomage Medical Table is a game-changer. The table is among the world's first and most technologically advanced virtual dissection system. It features a life-sized, interactive touchscreen display that allows users to visualize and interact with highly detailed, 3D human anatomy. Local youth will be able to perform virtual dissections, study complex body systems, and gain a competitive edge as they prepare for future medical and technical careers.



"Providing our local youth with tools of this caliber changes the trajectory of what they can achieve," said Director of Development Valerie Clodi. "Whether it's giving a young person the virtual practice they need to be a safer driver on Southern Illinois roads, or sparking a lifelong passion for medicine through the Anatomage table, this grant is a direct investment in the safety, education, and future of our entire community."

Herrin CUSD #4 is incredibly grateful for ACT Now and grants like it, which play a vital role in bringing innovative, high-tech resources directly to our region. The ACT Now Grant initiative utilizes federal Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) funding to empower local districts and expand critical out-of-school opportunities.

ACT Now is a statewide coalition supported by afterschool providers, families, school districts, and community advocates working to ensure that youth across Illinois have access to high-quality, affordable, and enriched out-of-school time programs. With these new additions, local youth now have unprecedented access to technology typically reserved for specialized training academies and medical schools.

ABOUT HERRIN CUSD #4

Herrin Community Unit School District No. 4 serves approximately 2,300 students across five educational facilities, ranging from PreK through grade 12: Herrin PreK Center, North Side Primary Center, Herrin Elementary School, Herrin Junior High School, and Herrin High School. The district is committed to providing a high-quality education by prioritizing strong connections among families, staff, and students. Herrin CUSD #4 fosters a supportive and inclusive environment that empowers students to achieve academic excellence and personal growth.