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PRESS RELEASE

Herrin CUSD #4 Responds to Rescission of Full Service Community Schools Grant

Herrin, IL — Herrin Community Unit School District #4 has been notified that federal funding through the Full Service Community Schools (FSCS) grant will be rescinded effective December 31, 2025, cutting short what was originally intended to be a five-year grant initiative.

Herrin CUSD #4 is currently in its second year of the FSCS grant, which has played a significant role in supporting students, families, and staff across the district. Grant funds have been used to enhance student opportunities through clubs, organizations, and Career Pathways programs, provide supplies and activities that strengthen connections between schools and families, and fund the salaries of district Outreach Workers. The grant has also supported numerous other initiatives aimed at fostering a stronger, more connected community.

"Herrin CUSD #4 was proud to be one of the original districts to write and advocate for this grant, helping make the Full Service Community Schools program available to districts across Illinois," said Superintendent Nathaniel L. Wilson. "The impact has been far-reaching, not just for our students and families, but for schools throughout southern Illinois."

Since Herrin helped bring the FSCS grant to Illinois, more than 15 school districts in the region have benefited from the program. The recent rescission has already led to service reductions elsewhere, including the cancellation of after-school tutoring programs in neighboring districts.

"This funding directly supports students who need it most," Wilson added. "Losing the FSCS grant means fewer resources, fewer supports, and fewer opportunities for students and families across our region. That's why it's critical that our community's voice is heard."

Herrin CUSD #4 encourages staff, families, and community members to show their support for reinstating the Full Service Community Schools grant for Herrin and other impacted districts. Community members may contact U.S. Representative Mike Bost's office to leave a voicemail advocating for the grant's reinstatement. More information about the Full Service Community Schools grant, its impact in Southern Illinois, and ways to show support can be found at www.herrinschools.org/fscs.

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.