

## Congressman Murphy, Superintendent Snead, Mayor Jarjura Announce \$500,000 Grant for Waterbury School Library Needs

June 17, 2009

Contact: Kristen Bossi

(202) 225-4476

WATERBURY, CT - Today, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5), Superintendent of Schools Dr. David Snead, and Mayor Michael Jarjura announced that Waterbury will receive a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to equip each of its twenty elementary schools with advanced technology and additional fiction and non-fiction books to support a program to improve literacy and critical thinking through reading and technology integration.

"This funding will open up a new world to Waterbury's students. By taking science and social studies concepts and presenting them in a new way, we will be preparing our kids for a world in which they will succeed. Mastering technology and attacking problems from a global perspective are skills that will take them far in their education in Waterbury and beyond," said Murphy.

Speaking about the grant, Superintendent of Schools Dr. David Snead said: "It is wonderful for Waterbury Public Schools to be a recipient once again of a grant through this very competitive federal grant program. Through these grant funds, Waterbury educators will be able to invigorate teaching and learning with technology and print resources previously unavailable to our students. This is one more way our district will help students to be prepared to compete in our global economy."

And Mayor Jarjura said: "I am very pleased to know that through this new federal grant award, Waterbury children and their teachers will have technology and other library resources at hand to help students to build critical literacy skills. Our children are our future leaders. For that reason, we are grateful for this federal support of our local efforts to improve student achievement."

During the project, teachers and library-media specialists will develop lesson plans that will allow Waterbury's 9,000 elementary school students to embrace new technology and build essential problem-solving and other 21st century skills from a global perspective. Science and social studies concepts will be presented in new ways via new technologies and resources. Through this project, Waterbury will work towards its "District Improvement Plan" goal of improving literacy for all students, with a target of 15% improvement over three years.

This funding will allow Waterbury to build upon work accomplished through the district's 2007 Improving Literacy grant,

which was announced in 2007 in Waterbury by First Lady Laura Bush with Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings.

###