



# Muscogee County School District

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## For Immediate Release

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## NEWS RELEASE

### Federal Grant Helps MCSD Schools Offer Additional Healthy Food Choices

**(Columbus, GA)**-Eating more fresh fruits and vegetables can help establish healthy eating habits. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) is a federal grant program, which targets elementary schools with the highest percentages of free and reduced meals enrollment. Participating schools receive \$50 - \$75 per student for the school year. Schools are reimbursed for the cost of purchasing fresh fruits, vegetables, and limited food costs. The additional food items are served **free** to students outside the normal time frame of breakfast and lunch.

Muscogee County elementary schools: Dawson, Forrest Road, Fox, Key, and Brewer, are honored to be recipients of the grant. Nutrition Managers from each school submitted an application, which included a creative implementation plan.

“The managers illustrated reasons why his or her students would benefit from the program,” said Marian Rabone, Director of the School Nutrition Program. “Schools throughout the state competed for the grant. Muscogee County was fortunate to have five schools awarded funds totaling \$113,266.”

The federal FFVP began as a pilot program as part of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, in a limited number of states and schools, to identify best practices for increasing fresh fruit and vegetable consumption for students. Of course, the goal is improve the overall diet of children and to create healthier eating habits in their present and further health.

For more information, e-mail [communications@mcsdga.net](mailto:communications@mcsdga.net) .