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## New Member District

### The CREC Welcomes Haxtun RE2J School District!



*Home of the Fightin' Bulldogs*

Haxtun School District is located in Northeast Colorado, serving over 300 students in PK-12 grades. Haxtun was awarded with 2.3 million dollars from a BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) grant, which will help to fund new school improvements such as re-roofing and a more energy efficient building. Both women and men's basketball teams were named regional champions recently! The Lady Bulldogs Basketball team are currently competing for a spot in the state qualifying tournament.

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## Grant Opportunities

### Expelled and At-Risk Student Services (EARSS) Grant

Applications due: **March 15th, 2019**

#### **Letter of Intent is due upon interest in applying.**

The office of Dropout Prevention and Student Re-Engagement is releasing this grant opportunity to reduce risk factors for dropping out of school. Grant services will focus on the 15% of students most at risk. The risk factors that are the focus of the EARSS grant are student behaviors resulting in disciplinary action and absenteeism resulting in truancy.

If you are interested in applying or have questions, please contact Brittney Ames at [brittney@generationschools.org](mailto:brittney@generationschools.org) for more information.

## **Rural Economic Development Innovation (REDI) Initiative**

Application Deadline: **April 5th, 2019**

Letters of Interest Deadline (Optional): **March 8th, 2019**

USDA and four of its partners are now accepting applications from rural communities and regions for free technical assistance to implement economic development planning projects. Through the Rural Economic Development Innovation (REDI) initiative, USDA is partnering to provide this assistance with the National Association of Counties, Rural Community Assistance Partnership, McClure Engineering Company, Purdue University Extension/ Community & Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky.

Participation in REDI will enable a rural community, or region, to create economic development plans that include: evidence-based assessments, quantifiable goals, plans to improve the local and regional economy, and metrics to track implementation and progress.

Rural communities with 50,000 or fewer people are eligible to apply. USDA and REDI Cooperators will score, review and select applications on a competitive basis. [Download the application](#) or request it at [RD.Innovation@osec.usda.gov](mailto:RD.Innovation@osec.usda.gov).

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## **Genesis Group Updates**

### **Teacher Recruitment & Retention**

#### **Immersion Program for School Psychologists & Counselors**

We are excited about the launch of the Psychologist Immersion Program taking place with SC BOCES this March! The immersion is a 5-day experience where graduate students will meet principals, teachers, families, students, mental health agencies and providers, nonprofit organizations, and others to learn about rural life, culture, schools, advantages of working in rural schools, community assets and challenges, and mental health needs in the area.

Immersion program dates: **March 25-29th**

For more information, click [here](#).

### **Student-Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP)**

The S-CAP program officially has a new website to showcase their work! Check out the new revamped site by clicking [here](#).

You can learn more about the S-CAP program and services offered by clicking [here](#).



### **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)**

#### **Advocacy & SEL Celebrations**

### **Salida High School Teacher Leads Mindfulness Activities with Students**

During Salida High School SEL walkthroughs, GSN staff members Ellen Sarkisian and Ashleigh Valentine had the pleasure of watching Nick Griffin implement a mindfulness lesson with his high school students. First, Griffin played a video called [The Time You Have \(In JellyBeans\)](#) that initiated a powerful discussion with students about the use of our time and how important it is to pursue things that we love to do. Following the conversation, Griffin led a mindfulness activity with his students in a circle. Students were very engaged and self-aware as Nick provided guided instructions. From the moment Sarkisian and Valentine walked into the classroom, it was evident that students had a great rapport with their teacher and fellow peers. Way to go, Salida High School!

### **STEM**

### **Case Study: Evolution of Team Teaching - Strategies for Individualizing Learning**

Wiggins is a small rural district that has made team teaching a strategic priority, with the goal of individualizing learning for each and every student. With the state's support through the Colorado Empowered Learning program, Wiggins was able to enhance and evolve its team teaching strategy to further meet the needs of students. Teachers received professional development on blended learning techniques and have begun integrating digital components into their team teaching and day-to-day instructional strategies. As teacher's have gained comfort with these techniques, the district is also taking advantage of Colorado's Digital Content Warehouse, customizing not just their teaching approach, but also the content taught, to better reflect student needs and interests.

This case study is provided by Colorado Empowered Learning. You can r ead the full case study [here](#) .

### **Teacher Leader Efficacy**

### **A Virtual Professional Learning Community Opportunity for Rural School Mental Health Providers**

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is an international initiative for lifelong learning and guided practice that has been shown to increase workforce capacity to provide best-practice care in rural and under-served areas.

Individuals that serve as rural school mental health professionals are invited to join the next Project ECHO conference. Participants will gain professional advice and approaches to meet students' mental health needs in school settings. Each session is a combination of didactic instruction and case studies from the field. For more information, click [here](#).

All 8 web conferencing ECHO sessions will take place in March and are **FREE** to attend.

Learn more about Project ECHO by clicking [here](#), or to participate click [here](#).

If you would like to join the CREC conversation, please contact Kirk Banghart at [kbanghart@generationschools.org](mailto:kbanghart@generationschools.org) .



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## Upcoming Events

### **S-CAP Professional Development Opportunities!**

The Student-Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP) is actively looking for people to attend and participate as a Reviewer or Observer at the upcoming S-CAP System Site Review (SSR) events listed below:

#### **March 11-12 - Holyoke SSR**

Register [here](#)

#### **April 3 - Fleming SSR**

Register [here](#)

#### **April 8 - Kit Carson SSR**

Register [here](#)

To view other upcoming events, click [here](#).

To learn more about S-CAP, click [here](#).

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## Contact Us!

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