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For Immediate Release

Harvard District 50 Begins New After-School Program

HARVARD, Ill. — Finding engaging and affordable after-school activities is challenging for working families. Harvard District 50 will open enrollment for a new after-school enrichment program in early October. The program intends to provide families with expanded learning activities and recreation for their children.

Known as REACH, the program's name is an acronym for the services it offers—Recreation, Enrichment, Academics, Community, and Health & Wellness. Utilizing evidence-based funding, Harvard hired Courtney Fejedelem as their new director of extended day programming and enrichment in July to design and implement the program.

"This isn't daycare. Participants will have structured, educational, and recreational experiences devised by teachers," Fejedelem said. "The program will be a terrific place for students to try new activities and have fun with their peers."

Fejedelem presented an overview of the program to Harvard's Board of Education at their public meeting last Wednesday. Additionally, the program will offer homework support and transportation.

"We're also excited to bring in community partners to share their talents and interests with our students," Fejedelem said. Harvard is seeking community members to work with students one to two days per week as part-time instructors.

"We know there's an immense pool of expertise in our community that we want to connect with our students," Fejedelem said.

Enrollment for the first session begins October 7. REACH will pilot at Crosby Elementary School with additional sessions added to Jefferson Elementary and Harvard Junior High School throughout the school year. Fees are \$50 per student or \$25 for direct-certified students per five-week session. Sessions run Monday to Thursday until 5 p.m. and students will receive a daily snack.

More information can be found on the [district's website](http://www.cusd50.org).

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