

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Benton Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

CARLISLE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Carlisle Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Carlisle Community School District received a 2005 Harkin grant totaling \$500,000 which it used to help replace the roof on the existing high school and to help build a new middle school. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves. The district also received a 2005 fire safety grant totaling \$100,000 which it used to update fire security systems in schools throughout the district.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Carlisle Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Rob Joiner, Ann Polito, John Judisch, Mark Randleman and Michelle Tish. I would also like to recognize superintendent Tom Lane, district business manager Jean Flaws and Gary Schwartz of the Iowa Department of Education.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

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CENTERVILLE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Centerville Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Centerville Community School District has received \$1 million in Harkin grant funding to modernize schools

in the district. The district received a 2003 Harkin grant for \$500,000 which it used to help remodel the third floor of the high school and build a modern science center addition. The district also received five fire safety grants totaling \$500,000 to replace outdated electrical systems, to install updated fire alarm systems, to install new emergency lighting and to make other fire safety improvements throughout the district. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Centerville Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Chris Hoffman, Steve Hoch, Deborah Watley, Jeri Pershey, Bill Matkovich, Brad Appler and Nick Hindley and former members Richard Roos, Deborah Egeland, Debbie Eurom, Shawna Stickler, Desiree Campbell, Joel Hollatz, Dr. David Fraser, Ray Tresemer and the late Brian Kauzlarich. I would also like to recognize superintendent Richard Turner, former superintendent Dr. Marvin Judkins, buildings and grounds director Ed Shirley and principals Ray Miller, Bruce Karpan and Scott Clark.

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That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Centerville Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

EAST MARSHALL COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the East Marshall Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The East Marshall Community School District received a 2005 Harkin grant totaling \$500,000 which it used to help build an addition to the high school which included a new gymnasium, cafeteria and commons and classrooms for music and career education. The new facility received the highest rating from Alliant Energy for energy efficiency including a new geothermal system. The former cafeteria was renovated for art education. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves. The district also received three fire safety grants totaling \$40,967 to upgrade fire alarms, install new doors and make other improvements throughout the district.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the East Marshall Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Mike Strawn, Dave Scott, Robert Thomas, Connie Allen and Steve Edwards. I would also like to recognize superintendent Dr. Alan Meyer, high school principal Rex Kozak, Dave Harrison from Design Alliance, the Weidt Group, Alliant Energy and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is

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IOWA CITY COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Iowa City Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Iowa City Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$1 million which it used to help build Tate Alternative High School. The district also received a 2004 construction grant for \$500,000 to build an addition at Kirkwood Elementary School which includes a gymnasium and three kindergarten classrooms and to build an addition at Grant Wood Elementary School which includes a gymnasium, a family resource center and a prekindergarten classroom. These schools are the modern, state-of-the-art facilities that befit the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, they are the kind of schools that every child in America deserves. The district also received a \$250,000 fire safety grant to make improvements at City High School.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Iowa City Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Toni Cilek, Liz Crooks, Mike Cooper, Patti Fields, Jan Leff, Gayle Klouda, Tim Krumm and Michael Shaw and former board members Pete Wallace, Matt Goodlaxson, Lauren Reece, Don Jackson, David Franker and Aletia Morgan as well as superintendent Lane Plugge and physical plant director Paul Schultz.

The Iowa City Community School District passed a \$39 million bond issue to modernize facilities throughout the district including the three projects discussed earlier. I would like to recognize Charlie Funk and Sarah Swisher for their leadership on Yes for Kids Committee and the cities of Iowa City and Coralville for their partnerships with the district.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

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NEW HAMPTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the New Hampton Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

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