



...enhancing community safety by providing effective Correctional practices, programs and services.

the Informant

Pines School Receives Increase in Title I Funding

By Brad Harper, Pines School Principal

Did you know that Anoka County operates a school? That school is located at the Anoka County Juvenile Center, 7555 4th Avenue in Lino Lakes. Its name – **PINES SCHOOL**.

Please call if you would like more information (651-783-7500). In some instances, a tour can be arranged.

Pines School has been in existence since 1977 and is responsible for providing education to all youth placed in any of the four programs on the campus. Local school districts pay for the educational services that students receive. (*Anoka County contributes zero dollars to the operation of the school.*) The school is approved by the Minnesota Department of Education and accredited by the North Central Commission on Accreditation. Approximately 1,200 students are enrolled during a typical school year.



Over the years, Pines School received approximately \$150,000 a year for supplementary reading support for students.

This year the amount jumped to nearly \$450,000 because of an increase in federal funding and reduction in the number of facilities like Pines School applying for Part D funds.

HOW DOES PINES SCHOOL USE ITS TITLE I FUNDS?

A simple list of staff and services is probably most illustrative:

- Licensed teacher to provide support in reading
- Paraprofessional to assess reading and math skills of nearly all students enrolled in school
- Technology and work stations to support these positions: computers, printers, phone, fax, etc.
- STAR reading and math assessments
- Costs for state mandated tests: MN Comprehensive Assessments, Basic Standards Tests, Graduation Tests
- College, Career and Community Outreach Fair
- Licensed teacher to provide support in mathematics during summer school

With the increase in funding, Title I provides all of the above supports plus:

- Licensed teacher to provide support in mathematics during the entire school year
- Licensed teacher to provide transitional support for long-term students exiting the programs
- Technology and work stations to support these positions: computers, printers, phone, etc.
- Laptop computers, work stations, and curriculum to support separate science labs in all four programs



Juvenile Crime Trends Show Decline

Don Ilse, Field Services Director

Most of the general public believe that juvenile crime has increased over the past 15 years. Both local and national statistics, however, reflect a significant downturn in juvenile criminal activity.

- The number of juveniles arrested declined nationally by 24% from 1997 to 2006. The juvenile violent crime arrest rate also declined by 20% over that same time period.
- In Minnesota, the total number of juvenile arrests declined by 42% between 1998 and 2007. The Minnesota statewide juvenile probation declined by 20% between 1999 and 2007.
- In Anoka County the total number of juvenile arrests declined by 34%. The number of offenders on juvenile probation in Anoka County declined by 36% between 1999 and 2008.

There does not seem to be a single reason that would explain this significant downturn in the juvenile crime.

However, factors that may play a role in the downturn in juvenile criminal activity include:

- Police liaison officers located in schools.
- Increased availability of mental health services to youth.
- School social workers and services.
- Zero tolerance of schools and communities to weapons and violence.
- Increased number of health community-based activities.
- More involved parents.
- Studies indicate a decline in adolescent drug use.

- Public education efforts in regard to drug use and crime.
- The fact that many youth today spend a great deal of time playing video games rather than wandering the streets.

In Anoka County, the Community Corrections Department has been able to reallocate resources from juvenile probation to adult probation where the workload and number of cases has steadily increased.

Truancy Supervision Program

*By Dan Ceynowa, Institutions Director
Priscilla McDowell, Supervisor*

The truancy supervision program (TSP) in Anoka County Community Corrections has recently undergone significant changes. Since the late 70s, the truancy program has been a specialized caseload in juvenile probation. The program transitioned some over the past 20 years. At one time the program included nine probation officers supervising approximately 200 truants and providing support for Corrections foster homes.

Each year the outcomes were on average a 95% attendance rate, a rate higher than the non-probation student body. In addition, TSP was instrumental in significantly lowering Anoka County Corrections' out-of-home placement budget for the past several years.

Recently, in response to budget issues, the truancy program was downsized to two probation officers who were moved into the juvenile field unit. At this time the plan is to keep two caseloads specialized in truancy.

The supervisor job was eliminated, one probation officer (temp) returned to the juvenile center, and the two remaining probation officers were moved into open positions in the Enhanced Treatment Program and Child Protection Unit within the Social Services Department.

School Year	Probation Officers
Late 70s	9
2007-2008	6
September 2008	5
April 2009	2

This successful program had outstanding attendance percentages each year with students attending their home schools.