



North Lyon County

USD 251



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Superintendent
Robert W. Blair
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October 28, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I write in support of the Rural Vitality Center Project by the Future Service Leaders Organization and the E Center in Lyon County, Kansas. The USD 251 North Lyon County school district is very excited about being a strategic partner on this project.

This Rural Vitality Center Project will serve to benefit the North Lyon County school district in various ways. Our school district includes about 440 square miles with this project located within 7 miles of Northern Heights High School. In North Lyon County we are currently facing the ongoing challenges of low enrollment, increased demand for mental health services, a teacher & staff shortage, poverty, learning loss, and limited resources. The close proximity of this project so close to our high school campus and within 30 minute of our elementary school would serve to greatly increase our students, teachers, and staff with access to numerous benefits. Our students would benefit from access to counseling services, highly engaged hands-on learning, and access to higher-level courses, agricultural-based learning, and numerous learning enrichment. Our teachers and staff would benefit from access to educational trainings, self-care opportunities, potential access to grant funding opportunities, access to technology, and professional learning space.

This project provides our school district and six small towns with the potential to provide economic, educational, and increased health for our students and patrons. Ultimately, I believe this partnership will serve to jumpstart our rural county by increasing student achievement, increasing wellness for all populations, and spurring economic growth. The scope of this project provides a once in a lifetime opportunity for the residents of the North Lyon County school district. The benefits I have referred to would make a huge difference in improving the lives of our entire rural population from senior citizens to young students.

Accordingly, I strongly support this project application. I request that you give all due attention to the application for this exemplary project, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Blair, Superintendent
USD 251 North Lyon County