



Jefferson County School has been approved for the *Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program* which will fund a project that was submitted in collaboration with Walter State Community College. Our winning grant proposal competed against 191 eligible applications for Fiscal Year 2009.

The overarching goal of our grant program is to create more highly educated local communities so as to address the trend of high poverty and unemployment in our region by addressing the need for improved educational opportunities of middle and high school students in our region. This project will focus on the needs of project schools: Jefferson County High School, Maury Middle School, Jefferson Middle School, and Rush Strong School. (White Pine School was not a participant in this project since the USDA identifies the school's location as an urban school and not a rural school.) Through this grant we will place distance learning units in each site. Schools will be able to connect to each other and with other distance learning sites across the region to share staff, courses, and resources. This collaboration will provide our students additional courses to our districts' curricula, such as advanced placement courses, dual enrollment opportunities, and college prep. Existing resources at all sites will allow our middle and high schools to provide more engaged instructional opportunities for our students. Particular emphasis will be placed on our math, science, and foreign language curricula.

The influx of new math and science courses will ensure that students in our districts are able to meet newly instated state-mandated requirements for graduation. In addition to meeting these requirements, students will receive the added benefits that come with the addition of higher-level, honors, and AP courses, which will assist them in achieving standards on state and national academic assessments. Additional courses, introduced by this project, and taken by our students, will result in more highly educated and motivated students, who will be both highly competitive for college admission and less likely to require remediation following graduation. The project will also enable our ESL Coordinator, Laura Darby, to utilize video conferencing equipment to address the needs of our ELL population and provide our ELL community additional support.