



What is the ESC curriculum? The Extended Studies Curriculum (ESC) program currently consists of Science, Technology, Music, Art, and PE taught by credentialed teacher specialists.

Why are our ESC Programs being cut? DMSEF has not received the necessary donations to continue supporting the programs at their current levels. Last year, DMSEF funded approximately 50% of our current ESC programs district-wide, yet this year's donations will not allow us to fulfill that same commitment. At this point, we are only able to donate approximately \$800,000 to the district. This is far less than our \$2 million goal and will result in ESC program cuts and teacher layoffs.

How does this insufficient fundraising affect our ESC Programs? The insufficient funds means that many of our ESC Programs and teachers will be cut and The District, based on last spring's Option 2 model approved by the School Board, utilizes the ESC programs to cover the contractual teacher prep time obligation. In broad terms, this equates to the district paying for some level of Science, Technology, Music and/or Art and 1 or 2 district-wide PE specialists.

What specific things will be cut? In addition to significant reductions in the current ESC Program (Science, Technology, Music, Art, and PE), many programs at each school site that are facilitated, mentored or taught by our ESC teaching staff will be seriously affected. Some school-specific examples include Student Council, Lunch Clubs, Chorus, Garden Club, Green Team, Future Problem Solvers, Band, Spanish, grade level performances, theatrical productions, school-wide Science Fair, life science studies, school-wide art projects/exhibits and organized PE recess games.

How, as parents, can we restore our ESC program for next year? To restore the current level of enrichment programs and prevent pink slips being sent to our ESC teachers, it is imperative that we raise as much money as possible in the next two weeks. You can help in the following ways:

1. Make an immediate donation to the Del Mar Schools Education Foundation (DMSEF). The deadline for donations is February 15, 2010. The recommended donation is \$800 per child.
2. Obtain MATCHING FUNDS from your employer. Your employer's human resources personnel can tell you if your firm matches educational foundation gifts or not.
3. Talk to the parents in your child's classroom. If you have already donated, encourage others to participate.

What if we don't raise enough funds to bring back ESC programs at the current level?

We have met with all 8 school principals and the district staff. It is their recommendation that the distribution of funds be based on teaching periods needed for each school's current student population. The principals believe that this model allows for more equitable distribution of ESC at each school. It also gives the principals flexibility of program selection at their site for ESC programs. In conjunction with this model, DSMEF will be placing the following restrictions on the 2010/2011 DMSEF donation to the district:

- 1) 2010/2011 DMSEF donation will be restricted for ESC Staff Salaries.
- 2) 2010/2011 DMSEF donation will be equitably distributed among our DMUSD Schools on the basis of current teaching periods.
- 3) Distribution of funds will be allocated to school sites based upon the ratio of current school site teaching periods to total district teaching periods.