



News Release

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For Immediate Release

Beidler Elementary Students Leading The Way To Energy Savings

Over the past several years, students working with Ms. Williams have been tackling energy waste in their Chicago Public School. The results are an impressive 16.85% decrease in energy use from their base year of 2005-2006.

The Beidler EnergyNet team consists of elementary students who formed an Energy Detective Agency led by middle school students serving as Energy Coaches. By conducting energy assessments called “stakeouts” these energy sleuths have come to understand the equipment and the people that provide and use energy in their school. At the same time, students have learned and applied the content required by the Learning Standards for Science, Technology, English and Math (STEM). For example, 3rd and 4th grade students on Beidler’s EnergyNet team created a vocabulary book and a vocabulary wheel with definitions, synonyms and antonyms of energy words.

Team work and problem solving skills are also integral to the program. In particular, middle school students working as Coaches really respond to the opportunity to serve as positive role models for the younger students. The result is a reduction in discipline problems and a student better prepared for the high school environment.

According to Carol Timms, EnergyNet’s director attributes EnergyNet’s success to “The combination of relevant material; an important topic like energy and the environment; and challenging and rigorous learning outcomes.” The EnergyNet program at Beidler Elementary School is being funded by a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Schools interested in participating in EnergyNet are encouraged to contact Ms. Timms at 877.359.3638.

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