

Polk County

Board of Supervisors Office News



For Immediate Release

February 16, 2022

Polk County, Prairie Meadows Kick-Off Annual School Donation Initiative

DES MOINES, Iowa – This week, Polk County and Prairie Meadows began distributing their yearly funding initiative for Polk County schools. At Tuesday's Des Moines Public School's meeting, the district was awarded more than \$560,000 by Polk County and Prairie Meadows. The joint venture allows for unrestricted access to additional funds for 16 public school districts to advance education in their communities.

This year's combined funding amounts to \$1,292,799 and is distributed according to district enrollment. Most school districts use the additional funds for items such as technology upgrades, additional online resources or staffing. Polk County Board of Supervisors Chair Angela Connolly says, "This year's grant from Polk County and Prairie Meadows are all that much more important in the effort to recover from COVID-19. Many of the schools will use these funds to assist in their efforts to upgrade facilities in this new reality of education during and after the pandemic. That could include anything from new online resources for teaching to expanded facilities for school nurses. These funds provide a welcome relief to many districts whose budgets were already stretched thin even prior to COVID-19."

This is the 15th year Polk County and Prairie Meadows have shared joint funds specifically for Polk County schools. Since 2007, the education initiative has led to a combined \$16,262,756 investment in Polk County education. Julie Stewart, Vice President of Community Relations says, "Prairie Meadows values the education of the youth in our community. Investing in our future leaders, is one of our greatest achievements. Prairie Meadows is proud to be partnering with Polk County in this initiative."

