



U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RAHALL ANNOUNCES FUNDS FOR F.I.R.S.T.  
COMPUTER PROGRAM SEEN AS TOOL TO  
EDUCATION REFORM**

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II (D-WV) announced today that the Department of Education has awarded a grant in the amount of \$121,000 to the Logan County Board of Education. The funds will go to implement the school board's F.I.R.S.T. Family - School Partnerships, a unique take-home computer program which encourages children and their parents to improve reading and writing skills together.

240 students will be divided into blocks of forty, and will be assessed by a member of Prescription Learning, the contracting service chosen to handle the program. They will design a specialized program for each student which will focus on the student's particular problems in their subject areas.

Then the student, along with their parents, will be shown how to use the program together. The family will be able to take the computer home with them and use it until their basic skills have improved to an acceptable level. After about six to nine weeks, they are promoted to reading materials and the computers are then prescribed to the next 40 students.

"These are the kinds of programs that Southern West Virginia needs to help improve education in our area," said Rahall. "F.I.R.S.T. Family-School Partnerships is providing an innovative and creative way for children to learn. But even more importantly, it encourages the parents to take an active role in their children's learning process."

If 240 participants are not found at West Chapmanville Grades, the program will then open up to the entire town on the basis of need.

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