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Allegheny and Cattaraugus districts to Launch 'Roads to Success' program

Last week, education non-profit Roads to Success announced plans to expand its career and college readiness program to nine school districts in western New York. Five of those districts

(Fillmore, Friendship, Hinsdale, Portville, and Wellsville) will join the program in September 2007.

The remaining four (Belfast, Genesee Valley, Scio, and Whitesville) will start in September 2008. All of the districts will receive the program -- including staffing, curriculum, materials and support, at no cost.

7th-12th grade Roads to Success participants receive weekly college, career, and life readiness classes that encourage students to explore their aspirations and better understand the connections between their school experience and their dreams for adulthood. The program's mission is to instill in students a sense of self-efficacy -- the knowledge that their actions make a difference -- and provide practical skills

they'll need to reach their goals.

The partnership is part of a six-year study designed to measure the impact of the program on student achievement.

"We're grateful to the leaders of these 9 school districts for their interest in our program," said Roads to Success Executive Director Jonathan Rosenberg, "and we look forward to partnering with them to serve their students for many years to come. I'd particularly like to thank Superintendent Mike McArdle of Scio and Dr. Michael Doyle of the Cattaraugus-Allegheny BOCES for their leadership in introducing Roads to Success to the region."

"This is an exciting opportunity," said Superintendent McArdle, "because it is important for us to continue to find ways for our students to make meaningful connections between what they are learning in school and the world they will be entering when they graduate. The nine

schools appreciate Roads to Success' efforts on behalf of our students."

"It has been wonderful to see the response from the region to the vision behind Roads to Success," said Dr.

Doyle. "Through this program, our students will have opportunities to discover their best qualities and set a direction to further refine and develop those qualities for their successful futures."