

Press Release:

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Big Brothers and Sisters Announces Positive Results for School Based Mentoring
Lebanon, OH-

Big Brothers and Sisters of Warren and Clinton Counties recently reached the completion of a three-year mentoring grant from the United States Department of Education with notably positive results, including increases in students' grades point averages and decreases in absenteeism. This school-based program provides supervised mentors that meet with children once a week during the school day.

As a recipient of the Department of Education grant, the agency was required to track and report statistics on an annual basis. These statistics monitored the progress of students matched with "Bigs" in areas such as competence, confidence, caring, grade point average and absences. The students' teachers reported the information to BBBS on a yearly basis, and the agency used the statistics to measure the success of the grant-funded School Based programs. An independent evaluator compiled the data from the three-year period, and was Big Brothers and Sisters is pleased with the overall results. The children mentored through this program decreased their unexcused absences by 45%. 63% of the children significantly increased their grade point averages. The largest core subject increase was 16% in language arts scores. Other notable statistics include a 67% increase in the students' attitude toward school, a 78% increase in the students' self-confidence, and a 68% improvement in the students' relationship with their peers.

At its peak, this grant allowed the agency to increase its School Based programs from 3 to 11 schools in the Kings, Mason, Lebanon and Franklin districts. The completion of the grant, which totaled almost \$500,000, means that BBBS will have to reduce the number of schools that it serves. The agency has already reduced the number of schools from 11 to 7 but will likely have to limit programs to 4 schools unless alternative funding is discovered.

Big Brothers and Sisters is proud of these statistics, and anticipates continued improvement from these students. The agency is currently seeking alternative funding and is welcoming donations from anyone in the community so that it may continue to serve these children. Any one interested in donating, helping with fundraising, or becoming a "Big" should visit www.bbbswarren.org, or call 513-932-3966/937-382-2210.