

**Niswonger Foundation and Rural School and Community Trust
Announce Two Regional Elementary Schools to Receive Grants From
Leonore Annenberg School Fund for Children**



The Leonore Annenberg School Fund for Children has announced the most recent round of awards in support of underfunded schools, providing much-needed resources to make a difference in the lives of young children. From Northeast Tennessee, Hancock County Elementary School, in Sneedville, and Carter’s Valley Elementary School, in Church Hill, are, each, recipients of \$50,000 grants. Both schools were assisted by the Niswonger Foundation in completing the grant applications and hosting the school site visits by the reviewing officials.

Dr. Nancy Dishner, President and CEO of the Niswonger Foundation credits a strong and supportive relationship from the Rural School and Community Trust for the successful submission of these grants for two schools in this region. Dishner stated: “We are deeply appreciative of the Rural School and Community Trust, for bringing this opportunity to the attention of the Niswonger Foundation and for assisting us in the application process. This organization has been a long-standing supporter of rural schools across the nation, and a valued partner in the work of the Niswonger Foundation.”

Carter’s Valley and Hancock County Elementary Schools will use this funding for classroom literacy materials, Chromebooks, and iPads, to allow the schools to transition to a blended, project-based environment. This will integrate literacy and content to provide more opportunities for learning.

Carter’s Valley principal, Denise McKee, commented: “We will be able to truly blend digital and traditional learning and differentiate for each child.” She further stated: “This small, rural community and school can grow leaps and bounds and achieve high academic success with the right support and tools.”

Pointing to the strength of the teachers, Hancock Elementary School principal Dr. Angela Kinsler, shared: “I strongly believe in the skills and commitment of my teachers. Our students are facing great challenges in literacy development. Our teachers are ready and willing to take every advantage of these additional resources that are being provided to them.”

Robert Mahaffey, President of the Rural School and Community Trust expressed his pleasure with the selection process. “I am thrilled for these two rural schools to receive this recognition of their resource needs. This award is evidence of the excellent vision and planning of these school

leaders and teachers.” Mahaffey further stated, “My visits to these schools convinced me of the desire these communities have to provide the best quality educational experiences for their students.”

These awards mark the 10th and final year of grants from the Leonore Annenberg School Fund for Children, which will have given a total of \$7 million to 91 public elementary schools that are in financial need and serve a high proportion of children from families living in poverty.