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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Limited Surge After School Programs Will be Available

With many community partners coming together, the Surge After School Program will be able to continue on a limited basis for at least the first semester of the coming school year. Surge was previously funded by the New York State Education Department 21st Century Learning Center Grant and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services Advantage Grant and managed by the United Way of Seneca County. Both sources are federal programs that run through individual states and end(ed) their funding in June 2009 and October 2009 respectively.

Without this funding, it was anticipated that all sites would be completely closed this school year. By combining a variety of resources from United Way, the schools and the community, Seneca Falls Central School District plans to begin program on Monday, September 14th while South Seneca projects Tuesday, September 15th as their start date, both will run from 3 pm – 5 pm. Seneca Falls has scheduled Surge for Mondays through Thursdays, but because of transportation costs, South Seneca will limit theirs to three days each week – Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. These times and dates may change if more funding becomes available.

Originally Surge took place in all four school districts in Seneca County – Romulus, Seneca Falls, South Seneca, and Waterloo. According to Superintendent Terry MacNabb, “Waterloo is researching all options to support afterschool opportunities for its students with consideration for budgetary constraints.” Superintendent Mike Hoose from Romulus School District reports that they are in a similar situation as Waterloo.

The standards and purpose of this program will continue to be to provide quality after school programming for middle school students that incorporate academic support, cultural enrichment and social interaction. The change is in the number of hours and days of availability and the lack of special field trips or presentations.