received the grants, which went to schools on the Academic Watch List. The money will help classroom reading programs in pre-kindergarten through third grades, and is part of the No Child Left Behind legislation enacted in 2001.

He said Rock Island will hire a reading coach for the schools. The coach will work with teachers to refine instructional skills in teaching reading. The funds also will go to after-school professional development of teachers, and there is money for reading textbooks and materials.

— Deirdre Cox Bauer