

RISING REVENUE

Rock Island nabs federal reading grant

Reading educational efforts in three of Rock Island's elementary schools received a boost Friday with a federal grant of about \$300,000, part of the \$11 million No Child Left Behind Reading First program.

Jay Marino, the district's assistant superintendent for instruction and school improvement, said about \$100,000 will go to each of three elementary schools: Lincoln, Hawthorne-Irving and Grant.

Seventeen Illinois districts

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 Baker