



## Northstar Lottery Group Unveils its 10<sup>th</sup> *After School Advantage* Computer Lab in Springfield School District 186

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Chanele Newton (312) 368-5814

**Springfield, IL** – May 13, 2014 – Today, Northstar Lottery Group, the private manager of the Illinois Lottery, opened its newest *After School Advantage* computer lab at Feitshans Elementary School located in Springfield School District 186 – an area impacted by budget cuts earlier this year. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> lab of its kind in Illinois providing at-risk youth with meaningful and productive after-school experiences.

District 186 voted unanimously to reduce funding by more than \$5.5 million this past March in an effort to balance its budget. Money-saving efforts included technology costs reduced by \$1.4 million. To help fill the vacuum left by these budget cuts, Northstar Lottery Group has donated iPads and other computer lab equipment to Feitshans Elementary School. Feitshans, reopened this school year to house students from two schools that closed last year, is one of the state's 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Program sites, so Northstar's donation will facilitate learning both during and after school hours.

"We worked with the district to identify schools with the most immediate needs. We were especially impressed with Feitshans' vision for excellence and equality in education. We hope this donation can help fulfill it," said Tim Simonson, president and CEO of Northstar Lottery Group. "Although this is a small step, we encourage other companies to lend their support. Every little bit counts. Through collective efforts, together we can make a big impact on the educational resources provided to children in Springfield."

"As we prepare students with 21st Century skills for career and college, we are thrilled to receive this grant from Northstar Lottery Group that provides iPads and furniture for students at Feitshans Elementary," said Superintendent Jennifer Gill. "In a time where funding is limited, donations like this allow us to continue our pursuit to provide students with opportunities to interact and utilize technology tools to demonstrate their learning and increase student engagement in the learning process."

The ***After School Advantage*** program is part of a statewide community investment program in which Northstar Lottery Group has launched 10 labs since July 2011, when it officially became the private manager of the Illinois Lottery. All centers are fully operational year-round, providing a safe and enriching environment for children and teens in these communities. Northstar plans to open additional labs in several regions throughout the state in the years ahead.

###

### [Northstar Lottery Group](#)

Northstar Lottery Group is a consortium of best-in-class companies with more than 50 years combined experience in Illinois. Northstar Group is led by a partnership between GTECH Corporation and Scientific Games Corporation.