



Carroll Academy open another year

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Carroll Academy will once again receive 25 percent less of its original funding from the state Department of Children's Services for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Randy Hatch, senior administrator and athletic director of Carroll Academy, said this is the second consecutive year the academy will receive \$643,000. The grant amount is \$209,512 less than the school's original funding of \$852,512.

But Hatch said news of reduced funding is better than news of no funding at all.

"I was worried about funding for next year," Hatch said.

Hatch said he was told during a March 30 conference call that DCS would be able to fund the academy in the upcoming fiscal year, but not after that.

In a letter about the academy's grant, Terry Bracey, program coordinator of DCS' Division of Juvenile Justice, wrote, "The governor's budget indicates that community intervention and juvenile court prevention services grant contracts will not be funded in fiscal year 2010-2011."

Hatch said it was the same thing the academy had heard before.

"This is nothing new," Hatch said. "It's a year-to-year grant. From where we were, it's a lot different this time. Morale is a lot better this year."

The morale is growing in part because many people have come to the academy's aid, including people from Nashville, Hatch said.

"We got a new computer lab from AT&T and Connected Tennessee, out of Nashville," Hatch said. "We received 18 computers and two printers. It didn't cost us a dime."

Hatch said the academy also has a new Web site, thanks to Nancy Bailey, a Nashville executive producer and owner of ACT 2 Films.

"She did the Web site for us for free," Hatch said.

The academy opened in 1994 and has served Carroll, Henderson, Henry, Weakley and Benton counties. Many students ages 12 to 17 are placed there by the courts to keep them out of jail and out of trouble.

Some are victims of child neglect, while others have problems with truancy and other behavioral problems.