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Congressman champions Martin school program with help from kids

Students get help with health and academics before and after school



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Congressman James McGovern (D-Mass.) answers question from Martin Elementary School students during an after-school program on Monday, Nov. 30.

[By George Morse](#)

SEEKONK - Congressman James McGovern sat on the floor with the kids at George Martin Elementary School as they hit him with the big questions:

“How do you like your job?”

“What laws have you been involved with?”

“Have you met the president?”

As a seven-term congressman he still likes his job and he’s been involved with many laws.

And, yes, he has met President Obama.

They were impressed.

So was he.

The congressman was treated to a tour of the facility a robust Q&A with the well-prepared students. The

event Monday showcased the Champions Program that provides food and content before and after school for students at George Martin Elementary School.

Champions Extended Learning Programs have over 30 years of experience serving children. The company claims to deliver right-at-school programs that address family needs for a safe, education-based environment. Programs include before and after school, kindergarten and preschool. In answer to parent and administrator requests and feedback, the company has enhanced these programs with literacy, fitness and character-building curriculum woven into all aspects of the day-to-day environment.

That's what the company says about their efforts. At the school, Principal Kevin Madden agrees.

"It's a very comprehensive program for the students. It offers academic support in terms of homework study groups. It offers a physical exercise portion. It also offers anywhere from arts and crafts to problem-solving to creating long-term projects such as art fairs and open houses," he said.

"They take each child as an individual. They understand maybe sometimes they had a rough day and come to the program a little short tempered. They take the child and help them finish off their day."

Champion offers before and after-school nutrition, academic and athletic programs at Martin. This includes help with homework and healthy snacks.

Champion Area Manager Robby Pletz was happy to see students so involved with the presentation.

The congressman "got a quick tour from some of the older boys. They did a fantastic job explaining to the congressman the problem areas, what we're doing in education and athletics. And he sat down on the carpet and answered questions the kids prepared," he said.

"The kids asked him some really good questions. We were very impressed."