Afterschool Alliance

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

The Afterschool Hours in America

- More than 15 million school-age children (26 percent) are on their own after school. Among them are more than 1 million are in grades K to 5. (Afterschool Alliance, 2009)
- The parents of more than 28 million school-age children work outside the home. (U.S. Department of Labor, 1998)
- Only 8.4 million K-12 children (15 percent) participate in afterschool programs. An additional 18.5 million would participate if a quality program were available in their community. (Afterschool Alliance, 2009)
- The hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. are the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex. (Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2002)
- Nine in 10 Americans want all children and teens to have some type of organized activity or safe place to go after school. (Afterschool Alliance & Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates Inc., 2004)
- Over three-quarters of Americans (76 percent) agree that members of Congress, state and local elected officials should increase funding for afterschool programs. (Afterschool Alliance & Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates, Inc., 2008)
- Currently, the federal government contributes only 11 percent of the cost of afterschool, while 29 percent of the children in afterschool meet the federal government's definition of low-income and in need of federal assistance. (Afterschool Alliance, 2009)

Afterschool Programs Benefit Youth, Families & Communities

- Teens who do not participate in afterschool programs are nearly three times more likely to skip classes than teens who do participate. They are also three times more likely to use marijuana or other drugs, and are more likely to drink, smoke and engage in sexual activity. (YMCA of the USA, March 2001)
- Early childhood education expert James Heckman concludes that a compliment of early education and participation in afterschool programs can reduce initiating drug use among youth by nearly 50 percent (45.8) while reducing the likelihood of them skipping school by half. (Investing in Our Young People, University of Chicago, 2006)
- An analysis of 73 afterschool studies concluded that afterschool programs using evidence-based approaches were consistently successful in producing multiple benefits for youth, including improvements in children's personal, social and academic skills, as well as their self-esteem. (The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, 2007)
- Children in LA's BEST afterschool program attend school more often and report higher aspirations for finishing school and going to college. LA's BEST participants are 20 percent less likely to drop out and are 30 percent less likely to participate in criminal activities. Researchers estimate that every dollar invested in the LA's BEST program saves the city $2.50 in crime-related costs. (UCLA National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing, June 2000, December 2005 and September 2007)
- The Promising Afterschool Programs Study found that regular participation in high-quality afterschool programs is linked to significant gains in standardized test scores and work habits as well as reductions in behavior problems among disadvantaged students. (University of California at Irvine, 2007)
- Parents miss an average of eight days of work per year due to a lack of afterschool care. Decreased worker productivity related to parental concerns about after school care costs businesses up to $300 billion per year. (Community, Families and Work Program at Brandeis University, 2004; Catalyst & Brandeis University, December 2006)
- Students in programs supported by The After-School Corporation improved their math scores and regular school day attendance compared to non-participants. High school participants passed more Regents exams and earned more high school credits than non-participants. (Policy Studies Associates, July 2004)
- Participants in Citizen Schools' afterschool programs are much more likely to go on to high-quality high schools compared to non-participants (59 percent vs. 28 percent). Former Citizen Schools participants were also significantly more likely to graduate from high school in four years when compared to Boston Public Schools students overall. (Policy Studies Associates, July 2009)

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Afterschool Alliance

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

About the Afterschool Alliance

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children have access to affordable, quality afterschool programs. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.

- In communities today, 15.1 million children take care of themselves after the school day ends.
- Just 8.4 million children are in afterschool programs—but the parents of another 18.5 million children would sign up, if a program were available.
- A report on 21st Century Community Learning Centers (afterschool programs receiving federal funds) showed that 45 percent of all participants improved their reading grades, and 41 percent improved their math grades.
- On school days, the hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. are the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex.
- Teens who do not participate in afterschool programs are nearly three times more likely to skip classes than teens who do participate. They are also three times more likely to use marijuana or other drugs, and they are more likely to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes and engage in sexual activity.
- Parents with children in afterschool programs are less stressed, have fewer unscheduled absences and are more productive at work.

The Afterschool Alliance is the nation's leading voice for afterschool programs. In an era of tight budgets, the Afterschool Alliance successfully defeated $700 million in proposed afterschool budget cuts, protecting programs for 700,000 children, and was able to secure $150 million in new federal funds for local afterschool programs in 2008 and 2009.

The Afterschool Alliance works with the Administration, the U.S. Congress, governors, mayors and advocates across the country. Its network spans more than 26,000 afterschool programs, and its communications reach 60,000 interested individuals every month. Signature efforts of the Afterschool Alliance include:

- *Lights On Afterschool*, a nationwide celebration of afterschool programs. In 2009 more than 1 million people attended over 7,500 events across the country.
- *Afterschool for All*, a national sign on campaign boasting 23,000 partners, among them governors, mayors, police chiefs and corporations; organizations such as the YMCA, AARP, National Council of La Raza and the NFL; as well as concerned citizens everywhere.
- A sustained earned media campaign that reaches millions of people each month and tens of millions for *Lights On Afterschool* each year.
- Leadership and communications training for an elite group of Afterschool Ambassadors who build support at the local, state and national level.
- A national *Afterschool for All Challenge* that brings afterschool leaders to Washington, D.C. for trainings and then to Capitol Hill to educate policy makers about their programs.
- A website that receives more than 346,000 page views, 134,000 user sessions and 16,700 unique users per month.
- A series of briefing papers, reports and fact sheets used widely by media, policy makers, concerned organizations and individuals.

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MetLife Foundation Afterschool Alert ISSUE BRIEF

www.afterschoolalliance.org

Issue Brief No. 46 **January 2011**

Afterschool: Supporting Career and College Pathways for Middle School Age Youth

The Afterschool Alliance, in partnership with MetLife Foundation, is proud to present the fourth in a series of four Issue Briefs examining critical issues facing middle school youth and the vital role afterschool programs play in addressing these issues. These Issue Briefs explore: the multiple benefits of afterschool for middle school youth; science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); pathways to higher education and careers; and health and wellness for preteens and teens. They examine just a few of the ways afterschool programs support middle school youth, families and communities.

In February 2009, during an address to Congress, President Obama urged every American to pursue at least one year of postsecondary education, ascertaining that, "In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity – it is a prerequisite."[i] Postsecondary opportunities, including college and trade schools, can open up numerous avenues to success for today's youth. However, many youth are missing out on the chance to accrue additional knowledge, and without it, they may be left struggling to find work in an increasingly competitive job market. In light of recent economic struggles, a postsecondary degree has become more of a necessity for those looking to find a job that pays a sustainable wage. Society has recognized the importance of a college education. A 2010 PDK-Gallup poll found that 75 percent of Americans believe that a college education is an absolute necessity for success in today's world.[ii] Americans understand that more education means greater readiness for the future, but thousands of students continue to drop out of school each day while job competition rises. It is therefore imperative that we convey the importance of higher education and career readiness to youth early on, so that they understand the importance of staying on the path to high school graduation and postsecondary success.

Higher Education and Better Job Prospects

There are numerous benefits that come with additional education after high school. Higher education can provide more economic flexibility, better job prospects and improve overall health. Studies have consistently shown that education level is directly proportional to higher salaries and improved quality of life:

- The unemployment rate for individuals with at least a bachelor's degree is consistently about half the unemployment rate for high school graduates. In 2009, when approximately 10 percent of those with only a high school diploma were unemployed, less than 5 percent of those with at least a bachelor's degree were without jobs.[iii]
- In 2007, the median annual earnings of young adults with a bachelor's degree were $45,000, while the median earnings for those with an associate's degree were $35,000. Comparatively, those with only a high school education received just $29,000 and those without a high school diploma received $23,000.[iv]
- Four year graduates earn approximately a million dollars more over their lifetime compared to those with only a high school diploma.[v]

- Individuals with higher levels of education are more likely to be very satisfied with their jobs.[vi]
- It has been estimated that by 2014, nearly three quarters of the highest growth industries will require some form of postsecondary education.[vii]
- The higher a person's level of education, the more likely they are to report being in good health, regardless of income.[viii]

Participation in higher education is clearly connected to real world gains. It is important to make this connection for middle school students so they understand that the hard work they put in during class and after school can lead to real world rewards in the future.

The Dangers of Straying Off Path

Unfortunately, many students start off on the wrong path, leading to a chain of detrimental choices that put them at a disadvantage once they enter the job market. More than nine in ten parents believe that their child will attend college,[ix] but there is a strong disconnect between reality and parent's beliefs. Only 41 percent of 18 to 24 year olds were enrolled in college in 2009,[x] and more than 7,000 U.S. students drop out of high school each day.[xi] It has even been estimated that today's youth may be the first generation less likely to receive a post-secondary degree than their parents.[xii] According to the National Center for Public Policy and higher Education, for every 100 ninth graders:

- 68 graduate from high school on time;
- 40 immediately enroll in college; and
- 18 graduate from college on time[xiii]

> *"This year has given me the power and knowledge I need to be able to concentrate and be a leader… and being a leader is an expectation I need for the school of my choice."*
>
> **Toni Glover, 7th Grade Participant in SquashSmarts**

The statistics on poor postsecondary matriculation rates and their effect on student's future job prospects are not encouraging. Forty-two percent of those with only high school diplomas have been rated as deficient in their overall preparation levels by employers (compared to just 9 percent of 4-year college graduates). Additionally, a strong majority of employers report that high school graduate workforce entrants are deficient in written communications, work ethic and critical thinking, all of which those with college diplomas scored significantly better on.[xiv] The importance of college and postsecondary training cannot be over stated. It is imperative that middle school youth see their connection to real world success early on so that they stay on track to graduation, higher education and a fruitful life.

Middle School Pitfalls

Although high school dropout rates have declined since 1998, eight percent of 16- through 24-year-olds nationally dropped out of school in 2009, with an even greater proportion of African-American and Hispanic students failing to attain a high school diploma.[xv] Even more alarming though is the fact that some students have been shown to fall off the track toward high school graduation and postsecondary opportunities as early as sixth grade. **Sixth graders who failed math or English/reading, attended school less than 80 percent of the time, or received an unsatisfactory behavior grade in a core course had only a 10% to 20% chance of graduating high school on time.**[xvi] In a study of middle schoolers, less than 1 out of every 4 students with at least one of these "off-track indicators" graduated high school in five years or less.[xvii] Although these numbers are disheartening, they display an

opportunity to intervene early and keep students on the path to graduation and careers. However, students need more rigorous instruction and support than schools alone can provide. Afterschool programs can provide the additional support to schools to ensure that middle schoolers improve achievement and become more productive students.

Afterschool: The Link to Higher Education and Career Readiness

Afterschool and summer learning programs have a proven track record of helping children avoid the pitfalls of poor academic achievement, poverty, truancy and insubordination, which can derail their futures before they begin:

- Students can realize their full potential with outside support.
  - Alumni of Citizen Schools' 8th Grade Academy graduate on time from high school and enroll in 2- and 4-year colleges at approximately double the rate of their peers.[xviii]
  - The Promising Afterschool Programs Study found that regular participation in high-quality afterschool programs is linked to significant gains in standardized test scores and work habits for middle school students.[xix]
- Attendance is critical to keeping children on track.[xx]
  - Ninth grade students who, while in middle school, participated in The After-School Corporation (TASC) funded afterschool programs had higher daily attendance and credit accumulation than matched nonparticipants.[xxi]
- Afterschool programs can keep children engaged in learning and out of trouble.
  - Youth attending 23-40 or more days of Maryland's After School Opportunity Fund Program showed positive gains on such measures as commitment to education and academic performance, and a reduction in delinquency and contact with the police.[xxii]
  - One meta-analysis of afterschool programs found that they succeeded in improving youths' feelings of self-confidence and self-esteem, school bonding and positive social behaviors, while also reducing problem behaviors, such as aggression, noncompliance and conduct problems.[xxiii]
- Closing the achievement gap can boost graduation rates and postsecondary success.[xxiv]
  - Researchers at Johns Hopkins University concluded that two-thirds of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth results from unequal access to summer learning opportunities.[xxv]
  - Citizen Schools reported significant improvements in achievement among high-risk students, including English learners and those with initially low standardized test scores.[xxvi]

> *"To ensure that every child is a graduate, we need multiple pathways to connect rigorous academic standards to real-world learning experiences. Some of those pathways need to reach students when school is not in session. High quality programs after school, before school and during the summer make a real impact on a student's ability to achieve."*
>
> **Tony Evers, Ph.D., Indiana State**

Afterschool programs across the country are ensuring that middle school youth avoid the pitfalls on their way to high school graduation, so that they can maintain the vision of going onto higher education and eventually succeeding in a fulfilling career.

Middle School, Afterschool and the Skills to Succeed

In addition to postsecondary degrees, employers covet a new set of skills for the 21st Century worker, such as problem-solving, work/ internship experience and the ability to use technology. Afterschool can play a key role in supplying children with preparation for many different types of careers requiring these new skills. Programs that teach practical, real world knowledge can spur creativity and greater engagement in learning and exploration. When children make the connection between additional education and enjoyment, they will set goals and realize their potential as successful career-minded adults.

> *"Recently, a young man who had won a $1,000 ACE scholarship told me he would never have gone to college if the scholarship hadn't shown that ACE believed in him… It really demonstrated what a significant impact this program can have on young people's lives."*
>
> **Denise Ramsey, ACE Mentor**

- The **Junior ACE Program** in Sacramento, CA teaches middle school students about green design and introduces them to careers in the architectural design and construction industries. Students take part in a variety of architecture and engineering classes after school on topics including alternative energy, green plumbing and green land use and design. The goal of Junior Ace is to engage children in the middle school years so that they can go on to participate in the ACE Mentoring high school program and later be prepared for careers in architecture, construction and engineering.

Many afterschool programs have direct links with nearby colleges or universities which can be used as a resource to inspire youth by connecting them with role models and mentors already enrolled in college. Middle school students can grow from their relationships with young adult mentors who are already on their way to success, and can begin planning for postsecondary achievement.

- The **Lincoln Intermediate Unit Migrant Education Program** in Chambersburg, PA maintains a strong partnership with nearby Messiah College, where children from migrant farm working families, many of whom are English Language Learners with an interrupted education, are afforded the chance to connect with college mentors who have shared similar experiences. Students learn the importance of early postsecondary planning through overnights and afterschool activities at Messiah College. Mentors and students also discuss the enriching aspects of their culture and ethnicity and are given time to express themselves through art and other media platforms. Finally, the program emphasizes helping students cope with the transition from elementary school to middle school and the future transition from middle school to high school, all while continuing to prepare the students for postsecondary success.

Afterschool programs can also get middle schoolers interested in public interest issues and science. By developing a passion for promoting social justice, students understand the work and additional knowledge necessary to support issues they believe in.

- **Project PORTS** connects middle school children in Cumberland County, NJ with the local oyster population in the nearby Delaware Bay. Rutgers University created the community-based oyster habitat restoration and education program in order to expand educational opportunities and create a sustainable stewardship program, while also improving the oyster habitat. Project PORTS (Promoting Oyster Restoration Through Schools) promotes important scientific concepts,

environmental consciousness and stewardship values through hands-on inquiry-based lessons that integrate science learning with historical and social perspectives.

The afterschool space provides the opportunity to engage children in learning that they would have otherwise not have come into contact with during the regular school day. This freedom allows children to find success in an area other than the core curriculum subjects, instilling confidence that will carry on through school, postsecondary opportunities and into their future careers.

- **SquashSmarts** in Philadelphia, PA combines the sport of squash with academic tutoring and mentoring for underserved, urban youth in order to develop self-esteem through academic, athletic and personal achievement. In a community that offers little opportunity for youth to participate in extracurricular activities, SquashSmarts fills that gap by providing academic tutoring and squash instruction three days a week. Additionally, the program supports learning by recruiting volunteers for activities and one-on-one mentoring and working with schools and parents to tailor instruction to youth's specific needs. The innovative program seeks to form a team-like atmosphere where participants grow athletically, academically and personally, so that they develop into productive citizens and see the possibilities for future success.

Afterschool can also serve as a resource that youth can fall back on to guide them through the often-precarious adolescent years, so that they can become happy and healthy adults. Whether a middle school student needs help in a math class, wants to make friends or is looking to stay out of trouble, afterschool programs can help them blaze a path to higher education and career readiness, leaving distractions behind.

> *"GENaustin's peer-lead model for their clubGEN program is two-fold. Both the middle school and high school girls can gain invaluable experience and skills that they may use to build a stronger future."*
>
> **Christy Decker, clubGEN Program and Development Assistant**

- **ClubGEN** in Austin, TX educates, inspires and mentors young girls to navigate through the ups and downs of adolescence and focus on a healthy track to adulthood. The afterschool program equips girls with the skills they need to confront the dangers of adolescence, such as eating disorders and juvenile crime, and utilizes mentors to increase critical thinking skills and academic performance to prepare middle school girls for college and careers. Girls are able to relate to high school volunteers, who have navigated similar experiences that they are now facing now, and understand that despite the obstacles on the way to adulthood, success can be attained.

Conclusion

In order to ensure that middle school youth are on a path toward higher education and careers, an early introduction to the importance of continuing education past high school is necessary. The middle school years are a vital time to teach the importance of college and career readiness and the linkages to success in life. Afterschool programs offer a key opportunity to expose middle school students to higher education options and career paths and to teach them skills that can unlock doors to future career prospects. The afterschool hours offer time for apprenticeships, guest speakers and project-based activities that are not always available during a school day focused on a core curriculum. Middle school is a critical time to ensure that youth are on a clear path to a productive future, and afterschool is an essential support to help middle schoolers move ahead to success in higher education and careers.

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America After 3PM
KEY FINDINGS

Each day in America, millions of kids go home to an empty house after school. In recent years, the growth of quality, affordable afterschool programs—programs that keep kids safe, inspire learning and help working families—has begun to offer parents of these children positive alternatives. Over the past five years, afterschool programs have played an increasingly important role in providing valuable after school opportunities for children and families.

In 2009, the Afterschool Alliance conducted a national household survey of nearly 30,000 families to learn how many children are in afterschool programs, how many are unsupervised after school and how these numbers compare to five years ago. Building upon and updating a similar study conducted in 2004, *America After 3PM*, sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, gives the most comprehensive and accurate picture to date of what our nation's youth are doing each day after school.

America After 3PM finds that afterschool programs today are serving significantly more children than they served five years ago, but there also are more children unsupervised each afternoon in the United States, and the demand for programs is higher than ever.

- More than a quarter of America's schoolchildren are on their own after the school day ends, and before parents get home from work. Despite growing awareness that children are at particular risk during these afternoon hours, the number and percentage of children left on their own in the afternoons has actually increased in the last five years.
  - The number of children who are unsupervised in the afternoons has risen from 14.3 million (25 percent) in 2004, to 15.1 million (26 percent) in 2009.
  - Today, 30 percent of middle school students (3,722,219) and four percent of elementary school children (1,133,989) are unsupervised after the school bell rings.

- The availability of afterschool programming for kids has improved in the last five years and families are taking good advantage. But there are not enough programs to keep pace with rising need.
  - The number and percentage of children participating in afterschool programs has increased significantly in the last five years, with 8.4 million children (15 percent) now participating. That compares with 6.5 million children in 2004 (11 percent).
  - Parents of the 18.5 million children (38 percent) not currently participating in afterschool programs say they would enroll their children if a program were available to them. That is a significant increase from 15.3 million (30 percent) in 2004.

- While ethnic minority children are more likely than others to be in afterschool programs, millions are unsupervised each afternoon and the unmet need is huge.
  - Twenty-five percent of Asian, 24 percent of African-American, 21 percent of Hispanic and 16 percent of Native American children attend afterschool programs, compared to the national average of 15 percent.
  - Yet 28 percent of African-American, 21 percent of Hispanic and 24 percent of both Asian and Native American children have no adult supervision after the school day ends.
  - While two in five parents overall (38 percent) would enroll their children if afterschool programs were available, more than half of African American (61 percent) and Native

America After 3PM
KEY FINDINGS

American (51 percent) parents, and nearly half of Hispanic and Asian parents (47 percent), say they would.

- The economy is taking a toll on participation in afterschool programs.
  - Parents cite a number of barriers to enrolling their children in afterschool programs with more than half of parents (52 percent) citing cost and more than one in four reporting hours of operation (26 percent) and availability (27 percent) as reasons for non-participation.
  - On average, parents who pay for afterschool programs pay $67 per week, up from an average of $44 per child per week five years ago.
  - Nearly one in three households (31 percent) report that their children are spending more time in the care of a parent after school now than a year ago. Reasons include changes in work status and availability/affordability of programs.
  - While overall satisfaction with afterschool programs remains consistent since 2004, mean satisfaction is down on several factors, including cost, location and number of days/hours per day a child can attend a program.

- Americans see afterschool programs as an answer. The vast majority of parents of children in afterschool programs are satisfied with the programs their children attend, and public support for afterschool programs is unusually strong.
  - Nine in ten parents (89 percent) are satisfied with the afterschool programs their children attend.
  - Nine in ten parents surveyed (91 percent) agree that there should be "some type of organized activity or place for children and teens to go after school every day that provides opportunities to learn."
  - Eight in ten parents (83 percent) support public funding for afterschool programs.
  - Parents recognize that afterschool is more than just a safe place for kids. According to parents of children in afterschool, the top benefits of participation include helping with social skills, keeping kids safe, providing opportunities to be physically active and helping their child succeed in school.

America After 3PM provides powerful evidence that we must do more to support afterschool programs in the United States. That includes increased support from all levels of government and the philanthropic and business communities.

According to U. S. Census data from 2007, the total school-age population is 57.3 million, which is the foundation for the national projections in *America After 3PM*.

America After 3PM was sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. Between March and May 2009, 29,754 parents/guardians responded to survey questions about their after school child care arrangements during the 2008-2009 school year. RTi, a market research firm, conducted the survey and analyzed the data for the Afterschool Alliance. Additional information from America After 3PM is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

Afterschool for All

Making the Case to Policy Makers, your Community and the Public

Afterschool Alliance

www.afterschoolalliance.org

What We'll Cover

- Making the Case:
  - Public Wants & Needs Afterschool
  - Afterschool Outcomes
  - Benefits to Bottom Line
- Policy Matters: Funding & Resources for Afterschool
  - National
  - State and Local
- What You Can Do: Events, Media & More

The Need is Clear: New America After 3pm Data

- 15.1 million of the country's K-12 youth take care of themselves after school
  - 2,473,140 African-American are responsible for taking care of themselves during the non-school hours
- 24% of African-American children are enrolled in afterschool programs, compared to 15% overall
- 3 to 6 p.m. are the most dangerous hours for kids.
  - Juvenile crime soars
  - Peak hours for drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex
  - Lack of physical activity/obesity
- Parents of 18 million children, or 38%, would sign up for an afterschool program – if one were available

AMERICA AFTER3PM

The Need: America After 3PM Summer Data

AMERICA AFTER 3PM
Special Report on Summer

- Too few kids are benefitting from summer learning programs
  - 25% of children (an estimated 14.3 million) participate in summer learning programs.
- There are not enough summer learning programs to keep pace with demand
  - 56% percent of non-participating children (an estimated 24 million) would be likely to participate in a summer learning program, based on parent interest.
  - Of those likely to participate in a summer program, nearly half (46%) are eligible for free/reduced price lunch.
- 95% of African-American parents support public funding for summer learning programs
- State Data Available

The Need: From Big Cities to Small Towns

- 7.8 million suburban, 4.5 million urban and 2.7 million rural children are unsupervised after school
  - Low income youth in rural areas are much less likely to participate in programs than their urban and suburban peers
  - Self care rates among urban low income youth are higher than their suburban and rural peers
- 18% of urban, 13% of suburban and 11% of rural children participate in afterschool
- Transportation and cost are major barriers in all locales
- 91% of rural, 88% of urban and 86% of suburban parents are satisfied with their child's program
  - 87% of urban, 83% of rural and 82% of suburban parents support public funding for afterschool

The Need: Spotlight on STEM

- STEM and afterschool – a natural fit
- Jobs jobs jobs!
- A strong STEM education is critical for the U.S. to maintain its competitiveness in the global economy
- Still large gender and racial gaps in the STEM workforce
- The STEM workforce in other countries is growing more rapidly than the United States
- Necessary for fastest growing sectors in our economy

Demand for Afterschool Programs

- More than 80% of voters – children need a place to go afterschool that is organized, safe, and educational
- 2/3 absolute necessity
- 73% - state and local officials should increase funding for afterschool
- 69% of voters - support tax increase

Source: Afterschool Alliance Poll conducted by Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates, Inc., November 2006 and 2008

What can we expect from quality afterschool programs?

Academic/School Benefits

- Improved Test Scores and Grades
  - 21st CCLC participants nationwide—43% improved reading scores, 42% improved math scores
  - In California, higher academic achievement, test scores
  - Oct 2007 study – big gains in test scores, work habits
- Improved School Attendance, Engagement in Learning
  - More likely to come to school, stay in school and graduate
  - In NY, higher daily attendance and credit accumulation
  - In Chicago, higher class attendance, lower course failure, higher graduation rates
  - Los Angeles program reduced drop out rate by 20%
  - In Massachusetts, stronger graduation rates and higher achievement for those most at risk

Social and Emotional Benefits

- Improved Behavior
  - Lower truancy, drug use, violence teen pregnancy
  - Greater self-confidence
  - Develop leadership, critical thinking, team-building skills
- Improved Health and Wellness
  - Structured physical activities, healthy snacks help prevent weight gain tied to inactivity after school and during summer

Benefits to Bottom Line

- **Rose Institute**
  - Every dollar invested in afterschool programs saves taxpayers at least $3
- **Catalyst Study *(December 2006)***
  - New Catalyst Study - $50-$300 billion/year due to lost productivity
  - PCAST – Parental Concern about Afterschool Time
  - Low-income and minority parents are much more likely than higher-income, white parents to have trouble finding high-quality, convenient and affordable programs.
- **Corporate Voices for Working Families**
  - "*After School For All: A Call To Action From The Business Community*"

Who’s Doing What

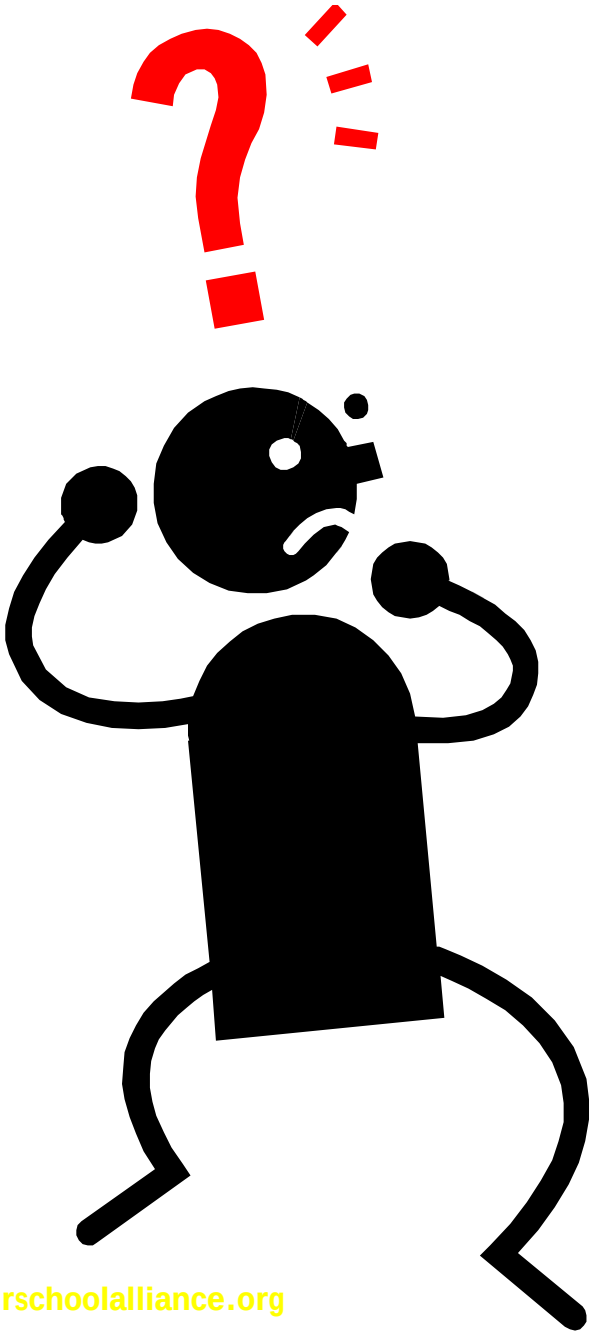
Federal Afterschool Policy

Federal Funding Picture

- 21st CCLC – biggest source of funding
- Other funding includes DOJ, DOA, DOL, SES,
- Child Nutrition Reauthorization – a big deal!
  - Money for meals!

FY	*Amount Appropriated*	*Amount Called for in NCLB*
2002	$1 billion	$1.25 billion
2003	$993.5M	$1.5 billion
2004	$991M	$1.75 billion
2005	$991M	$2 billion
2006	$981M	$2.25 billion
2007	$981M	$2.5 billion
2008	$1.1 B	$2.5 billion
2009	$1.13 B	$2.5 billion
2010	$1.166 B	$2.5 billion
2011	**$1.166 B**	**$2.5 billion**

So… what the heck is going on in DC?



The Federal Budget: A Showdown Looming?

- House passed a FY11 budget containing:
  - $100 million cut to 21st CCLC
  - $200 million cut to OJJDP
  - $38 million cut to CCDBG
  - No funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service (Americorps, VISTA, etc.)
  - No funding for PEP
- But the Senate says NO WAY…
  - Government Shutdown? Short term CR?
- President's FY12 budget includes $100 million increase for 21st CCLC, and includes extensions of the school day/year and changes from formula to competitive grant…

Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

- The FY2011 Budget Proposal and ESEA Blueprint would prioritize the funding of a longer school day using 21st Century Community Learning Centers program funding
- The Department of Education's Blueprint discusses the importance of community partners, but CBO involvement is not required
- The proposal turns 21st CCLC program into two national competitive grant programs, rather than one working by formula to states
- Instructional time and school turnaround is emphasized

ESEA Reauthorization Cont'd

- The Afterschool Community Responds
  - The importance of maintaining formula funding to states
  - The value of exclusively funding before-school, afterschool and summer learning under 21st CCLC
  - The critical role of community partners and hands-on learning
  - The reach and need for afterschool
  - The need to define "ELT"

ESEA Reauthorization – What's Next?

- Congress will decide on Appropriations for 21st CCLC in March
  - Senate proposed opening 21st CCLC to extensions of the school day/year
    - But by the end the language had significantly improved
- The Senate HELP and House Education and Labor Committees were crafting their versions of ESEA reauthorization in 2010, but…
- Elections changed the Congressional landscape
- New head of Education committee – Rep. Kline (R-MN)
  - Some signs point to a piecemeal approach
- ELT seems to be a priority of the Dept. of Education

Senate Language – A Model for the Future?

- Increase in funding (unlikely for this year)
- Requires school-community partnerships
- Expand usage of 21st CCLC funds to include expanded learning time in addition to afterschool programs
- BUT specifies that one approach is not to be given preference over the other

What You Can Do

Know Your Audience

Afterschool is…

- Health Care
- Workforce prep
- Nutrition/Physical Health
- Service learning/Community Engagement
- Academic Skills
- Family Involvement in Schools

Know Your Allies

- Afterschool Providers
- House & Senate Afterschool Caucuses
- Business leaders
- Law enforcement
- Youth
- City and county leaders
- Others?

Tell Your Story

Messaging:

- Afterschool keeps kids safe, inspires learning and supports working families
- Complements the school day and offers learning in new ways
- Jobs – current workforce and future workforce
- Cost-effectiveness/leveraged dollars

Make it Personal:

- Why do you value afterschool?
- What would cuts to programming mean for you?
- How do your children benefit from afterschool participation?
- How does your community benefit from afterschool programs?

Raise your Voices – Contact Congress/Local Officials

- Call, write or email
- Meet district staff
- Shameless plug – attend Afterschool for All Challenge
  - Premier afterschool event in the nation's capital
  - Honoring leaders in Congress and in the States
  - Let Members of Congress hear from you and your youth about afterschool

Arrange a Site Visit

- **Ask your Members of Congress, local policy makers and media to visit your afterschool program:** Help your elected officials and your community establish a personal connection to afterschool by inviting them to visit a program and see firsthand how it is helping kids and families

  - **Find the home district address and phone number** for your elected officials.
  - **Identify a few dates during the next Congressional recess** when you could host a tour of your program.
  - Call the district office.
  - **Before the visit:** Identify youth, parents, program staff, school officials and community partners who would be convincing spokespeople for your program.
  - **What to do the day of the visit.**

October 20, 2011

Lights On Afterschool!

- Annual nationwide event
- Brings attention to the need for afterschool programs and resources
  - 7,500+ events and 1 million Americans nationwide
  - National Chair Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger; Kevin Sorbo and Rhea Perlman as spokespeople
  - Thousands of newspaper & TV stories
  - Build relationships w/ business community, neighborhood leaders, elected officials

Face it – Afterschool is Media-Worthy

- Plagiarize freely!
- Create a Media List
  - We have a tool that will do it for you!
- Identify your 2-3 key messages
- Structure events with media in mind
  - Timing is critical
- Appeal to the press, build relationships
  - Newspaper, radio, television, bloggers, etc.
- Issue news releases
  - Samples available
- Develop press kits
  - Create a one pager – we'll walk you through it

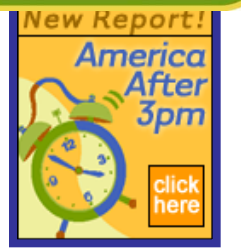
Afterschool for All

- Show your support for afterschool programs and what they do for our children, families and communities
- Register your support & be recognized by *Afterschool for All* campaign
  - Thousands of leaders, organizations and businesses already on board
  - Sign up at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/a4aJoin.cfm

AFTERSCHOOL for ALL
afterschoolalliance.org

Afterschool Alliance Resources

- Facts & Research
- Subscribe to the Afterschool Advocate
- Program Toolbox – Funding, Media & Reaching Policy Makers
- Policy & Action Center



www.afterschoolalliance.org

Keep in Touch!

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