

Questions for Candidates

1. More than a decade of research shows that afterschool programs keep children safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. Yet, millions of children are unsupervised each day after school and parent productivity is down during those after school hours as a result. What role do you see for our federal/state/local government in supporting kids and families during the critical hours between 3 and 6 p.m.?
2. Studies show that American voters want their kids to have more engaging, hands-on expanded learning opportunities. Among the models of expanded learning, which include before-school, afterschool and summer programs, a longer school day has gained traction as an education reform policy. However, a longer school day is just one model of expanding learning and is still in the pilot phase of development. How can our federal/state/local government support a variety of expanded learning programs and ensure that all the approaches to expanded learning incorporate the best available evidence of what works for kids and families?
3. Quality, affordable afterschool programs are available to only a small percentage of schoolchildren, parents and communities that want them. If elected, will you work for a significant increase in federal/state/ local funding for afterschool programs so that more children and families will have quality afterschool programs available to them?
4. Many Americans have serious concerns about students being prepared to navigate and compete in the highly technical global marketplace. There is evidence that afterschool programs help increase STEM knowledge and skills, help kids graduate on time and prepare them for college and careers, yet afterschool programs are in short supply. If elected, will you support additional funding for afterschool programs, particularly programs that support STEM learning?
5. Afterschool programs need support not just from governments, but from the business and philanthropic communities as well. If elected, will you work to engage leaders of these communities in efforts to increase support for afterschool programs?
6. Please describe the ways you would work to make afterschool programs available to all children who need them, if you are elected.