



Afterschool Programs for Older Youth: A Briefing on How Afterschool Partnerships Support Student Success

Hosted by:
The Afterschool Alliance
in conjunction with
Senator Blanche Lincoln and
Senator Evan Bayh

Wednesday, February 24, 2010
2:00 - 3:00 PM
Dirksen G-11

While only about 500,000 of the 8.4 million students who participate in afterschool programs are in grades 9-12, almost 4 million high school students would participate if programs were available and accessible to them. Only 5% of 21st Century Community Learning Centers exclusively target high school students and none of the Child Care dollars can be used for high school programs. Yet the juvenile crime rate triples between 3 PM and 6 PM, and older youth who participate in quality afterschool programs avoid those pitfalls while getting an academic boost. Studies show that when older youth participate in afterschool programs they demonstrate increased school attendance, improved homework completion, increased standardized test scores, on time promotion to the next grade, improved social and problem solving skills and increased graduation rates.

Effective programs for middle and high school students are designed to attract, engage and meet the varied needs of more autonomous older youth. Quality afterschool programs aimed at this age group focus on academics and can include credit recovery or attainment as well as relevant and hands-on learning opportunities that are grounded in the real world, such as part-time work, internships and apprenticeships. This type of meaningful, real-world learning helps keep students engaged in school and provides them with marketable skills for their future in the workforce.

Afterschool Programs for Older Youth will highlight successful before-school, afterschool and summer programs for older youth as well as the need for legislation like the ASPIRE Act that would provide a dedicated funding stream for programs serving older youth. Featured Speakers include:

- **The Honorable Senator Blanche Lincoln** (AR) *invited*
- **Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance**
- **Janice Hastings**, Vice President, **PlusTime NH**, Concord, NH
- **Jasen Kelly**, Director, **Boys and Girls Club of Saline County**, Benton, AR
- **Michael Funk**, Founder and Director, **Sunset Beacon Center**, San Francisco, CA

For more information, please contact Erik Peterson at the Afterschool Alliance at 202-347-2030.

To RSVP, please contact info@afterschoolalliance.org



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