



# Afterschool Advocate

A media outreach newsletter published by the Afterschool Alliance

Volume 12, Issue 1, February 1, 2011

## BUDGET FIGHTS LIKELY THIS YEAR FOR AFTERSCHOOL

At a time of record deficits, and with a new Republican majority in the House of Representatives that is vowing to dramatically reduce federal spending, [funding for afterschool programs](#) is likely to be a significant concern this year.

At the end of last year, Congress extended the Fiscal Year 2010 budget through early March, meaning that funding for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers will remain at the same level as last year for a few more months. But after that, it is unclear what Congress will do.

The House of Representatives recently passed a resolution that directs the Chair of the House Budget Committee to cut non-security discretionary spending to 2008 levels or less. If implemented, it would result in a cut of \$9.42 billion for the Department of Education alone. For 21st Century Community Learning Centers, a return to Fiscal Year 2008 levels would bring an \$85 million cut. [Click here to see a chart](#) detailing what this cut would mean for each state. However, the Democratically-controlled Senate may not agree to that reduction.

Congress will also try to reauthorize the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)* again this year. Called the *No Child Left Behind Act* under former President Bush, the legislation sets priorities, as well as funding ceilings, for federal education programs. The new bill is expected to give school systems more flexibility and allow or more state and local control over education decisions. There is conjecture that the *New Year continued on page six...*

## STEM AFTERSCHOOL – AND ONLINE!

The Afterschool Alliance has launched a new [Afterschool & STEM](#) (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) website, as part of the [pledge to make 2011 the Year of Science in Afterschool](#).

The Afterschool & STEM site has numerous resources, including curriculum ideas, funding opportunities, research on the benefits of STEM and how afterschool programs can promote it, policy news, a list of national allies and initiatives, and more. A real-time Twitter feed tracks the STEM conversation as it happens.

The new website features profiles of programs that have successfully integrated STEM education into curricula, including winners and highly ranked nominees of the [MetLife Foundation's Afterschool Innovator Awards](#) for 2010. There is a dedicated page for science professionals who want to get involved with afterschool programs, to help them navigate everything from basic afterschool facts to finding a program in their area.

In December, the Afterschool Alliance, National AfterSchool Association and National Summer Learning Association announced an unprecedented collaboration to promote STEM during out-of-school hours. With generous support from the Noyce Foundation, they have pledged to improve and expand STEM education at the national, state and local levels.

Visit the [Afterschool & STEM site here](#). Learn more about the [pledge to make 2011 the Year of Science in Afterschool here](#).

## **OUTREACH**

### **Valentine's for Afterschool!**

This Valentine's Day, take a moment to send a greeting to both new and returning lawmakers with information about the benefits afterschool programs provide to students and families. Valentine's Day presents an excellent opportunity to reach out and let policymakers know how much these programs are valued in your community. Parents and youth make compelling program ambassadors, so be sure to involve them in the Valentine's Day project!

Use this occasion to thank members of the Afterschool Caucus – legislators who are leading the charge for afterschool funding. There is a caucus for the House of Representatives and one for the Senate. If your Representative and Senators are already members ([find out here](#)) send them a thank you Valentine for all they are doing to support afterschool programs. If you have a newly elected Member of Congress, use this opportunity to encourage them to join the Afterschool Caucus. [Click here](#) for sample language on joining the caucus.

Remember to include information about your program and an invitation to legislators to visit your program, with your Valentine. While they may not be able to come right away, Members of Congress are always receptive to open invitations, and are very appreciate of contact from constituents.



## FUNDING NEWS

The Afterschool Alliance's website has resources for afterschool providers, including tips for initiating relationships with funders and businesses, and for identifying funding opportunities. *To learn more, click [here](#).*

### GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE

#### Grants for Fighting Hunger

The Sodexo Foundation is sponsoring the STOP Hunger Scholarships for students who have made an impact on hunger in the United States. Up to five scholarships of \$5,000 and a grant to the winners' hunger-related charity of choice will be awarded to eligible students, from kindergarten to graduate school. Added consideration is given to students working to fight childhood hunger. The deadline is February 18. *For more information, click [here](#).*

#### Grants for Musical Instruments

The NAMM Foundation is sponsoring grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to be used for the purchase of musical instruments in new or existing music programs. The Wanna Play Fund is open to public schools and community organizations that serve low-income students or those with special needs. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. *For more information, click [here](#).*

#### Grants for Community Action

DoSomething.org is giving away a \$500 grant every week to youth-led community action programs or projects. Do Something Seed Grants can be used to launch new ideas, grow young projects or expand existing projects. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. *For more information, click [here](#).*

#### Grants to Establish Computer Labs

GTech, a gaming technology company, is awarding up to \$15,000 in state-of-the-art computers, software, technology and volunteer hours to nonprofit afterschool programs as part of the After School Advantage Program. Eligible afterschool programs must serve at-risk youth ages five to 15, and be in one of the following states where GTech offices are located: Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. *For more information, click [here](#).*



## AFTERSCHOOL AT STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

An afterschool student from Philadelphia was among the distinguished guests sitting with First Lady Michelle Obama at the State of the Union address on January 25. Brandon Ford, a junior at West Philadelphia High School Academy of Automotive and Mechanical engineering, joined three other [students who have excelled in STEM](#) (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) in the First Lady's box at the U.S. Capitol for the speech.

Ford is the leader of West Philly Hybrid X Team, which built a car that averaged 65.1 miles per gallon as part of the Progressive Automotive X Prize competition. Competing against professionals from around the world, West Philadelphia was the only high school team to enter the competition.

The West Philadelphia Hybrid X Team was featured in the [Afterschool Snack](#) Weekly News Roundup last summer. *Read more [here](#).*



## IN HIS OWN WORDS...

### Voices from the Afterschool Storybook...

"In truth, it is our privilege to spend time with these young men, not the other way around. We are honored to discuss the deeper questions in life with them. We think our youth can change the world."  
-- Kwame Scruggs, Akron Ohio

*To read Scruggs' story, and read more afterschool voices from across the country, [click here](#). Share your story [here](#).*



## IN THE NEWS...

**Alaska** – Children in Fairbanks are the driving force behind several new recycling programs, the *Associated Press* reports. At North Pole Elementary, the "Waste Busters" – a group of students from the afterschool program – collect recycled materials from classrooms once a week. They use some of the materials for art projects – like paper beads, jean pocket purses and woven pop can tab bracelets – and the rest is picked up by Fairbank's K&K Recycling. "Really interestingly, my first three phone calls [about starting recycling programs] came from kids," Phil Coles, project developer at K&K Recycling and Chena Power, says of the eight schools that have launched similar programs this year.

**Georgia** – Every other week, Tifton's littlest farmers deliver produce to Brother Charlie's Rescue Mission, a men's shelter. Led by University of Georgia Plant Pathologist Unessee Hargett, the students at Annie Belle Clark Primary School's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center are participating in the "Plant a Row for the Hungry" program. They are powered by lessons in agriculture that teach them where food comes from, and by compassion for those who are less fortunate. The students also take some of their crops home with them, the *Tifton Gazette* reports. *To learn more about the Plant a Row For the Hungry program, [click here](#).*

**New York** – "When they are here, all the handicaps disappear," high school senior Haley Coopersmith says of the Arts Inclusion afterschool program in New City. Coopersmith is one of the students from Clarkstown North High School who meet once a week with special needs teenagers from Clarkstown South's Spirit Program to create art together. Students at the program, which began in December, have already created digital music, hip hop dancing, a

hand-print fundraiser for the Clarkstown North Arts Honor Society, and gingerbread men cookies, the *Journal News* reports.

**Pennsylvania** – At an inner-city Philadelphia school with the second highest poverty rate and the fourth highest incidence of gun violence in the city, an afterschool music program is instilling self-confidence in students, the *Times-Tribune* reports. Twenty-seven year old Patrick Urban spent five years building the Meade Musicians program from the ground up, relying on grants and private donations to fund the program’s wide array of during-school and afterschool instruction, which includes chorus, band, drum line, keyboard lab, rock band and string, guitar, recorder and rumble ensembles. “When you have a community that is very disempowered, and you provide a program that is very empowering, it has a tremendous effect,” Urban said. “In order to truly eliminate the achievement gap, you have to limit the resource gap first.”



### SEND IN YOUR SIGNED PETITIONS!

Since the afterschool petition launched last fall, more than 6,500 supporters have signed onto it online – and many more have signed hard copies. Help make sure that every signature in favor of afterschool funding is counted! If you gathered signatures on petitions at your *Lights On Afterschool* event – or at another event – please be sure to send the signed forms to the Afterschool Alliance by mailing them to: Petitions, Afterschool Alliance, 1616 H Street, NW, Suite #820, Washington, DC, 20006. Thank you!

## KIDS ROCK WITH SINGER-SONGWRITER

Children across the country will have the opportunity to perform on stage with musician [Joshua Radin](#) and his band, thanks to the singer-songwriter’s partnership with [Little Kids Rock](#), a nonprofit that restores and revitalizes music education in underfunded public schools.

Radin will visit Little Kids Rock classrooms in select cities to work alongside teachers, both during school and afterschool, incorporating his songs into the lesson plans. Select groups of students will be invited to perform with Radin and his band each night to show what they’ve learned.

“We are so excited that Joshua Radin is supporting our children,” Little Kids Rock Executive Director David Wish said in a release. “Getting the chance to perform on stage with a professional recording artist is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and for these children, Joshua is living proof that if they work hard and follow their dreams, they can be successful in their lives.”

For more information and to see Radin’s tour schedule, click [here](#).



## RESOURCE

### Academic Help Online

Middle and high school students can get free math homework help from an online tutor thanks to the [Study Buddy](#) program from the National Science & Technology Education Partnership. Using an online “notebook,” which is accessible from any computer with Internet access, students can fill more than 1,000 blank pages with basic elementary school math to high school level trigonometry and statistics, and connect with a prescreened, live peer tutor for help. The notebook is also preloaded with quizzes, instructional videos in English and Spanish, practice worksheets, a

graphing calculator and more. Afterschool practitioners have access to students' notebooks and can upload program or school information through a document-loading tool. For more information, click [here](#).



## KEEP UP WITH AFTERSCHOOL NEWS!

Hungry for the latest news on afterschool? Be sure to check out [Afterschool Snack](#), the Afterschool Alliance's up-to-the-minute blog on afterschool news, trends and information from across the country. Recent posts include:

- [NAEP scores show hands-on science matters](#)
- [Afterschool included in strong STEM presence at State of the Union address](#)
- [New MetLife Brief: Supporting College and Career Pathways for Middle School Age Youth](#)
- [Our new STEM website](#)
- [Doodle 4 Google Registration is Now Open to All Afterschool Artists](#)

And be sure to tune in every Wednesday for a national news round-up, and throughout the week for your daily dose of afterschool. Check out Afterschool Snack [here](#).



*New Year continued from page one...*  
Administration may rename the bill either *Every Child Counts* or *Race to the Top*.

In his [State of the Union](#) address, President Obama laid out his priorities for education. "To win the future... we also have to win the race to educate our kids," he said.

"The quality of our math and science education lags behind many other nations," he continued. "America has fallen to ninth in the proportion of young people with a college

degree. And so the question is whether all of us – as citizens, and as parents – are willing to do what's necessary to give every child a chance to succeed... We need to teach our kids that it's not just the winner of the Super Bowl who deserves to be celebrated, but the winner of the science fair. We need to teach them that success is not a function of fame or PR, but of hard work and discipline."

The President called for the hiring of 100,000 more science, technology, engineering and math teachers by the end of the decade. He said his [Race to the Top](#) competitive grant program can be a model for the new *ESEA*.

"This is going to be a critical year for the afterschool community and our work to make quality afterschool programs available to all students who need them," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "We need to defend our gains and press for more, in the face of intense budget pressure and a passionate debate over how students should be enriched and educated outside the traditional school day."

"Advocacy from the afterschool community will be more important than ever," Grant added. "We need to find new and more powerful ways to share our success stories. But we are well-positioned to succeed because quality afterschool programs have such a strong track record of engaging students in science, math and related subjects, helping to deter dropouts, and providing the enrichment activities that make learning fun."

## New Congress, New Key Players for Afterschool

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), a founder of the Senate [Afterschool Caucus](#), will be its new co-chair. The bipartisan Caucus is also co-chaired by Senator John Ensign (R-NV). Both the Senate and House Afterschool Caucuses build support for afterschool programs and for increased funding and resources for quality afterschool care.

Senator Boxer replaces Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT), a longtime afterschool champion, who retired in December. “I am grateful for Senator Dodd’s leadership in championing afterschool programs,” she said. “As co-chair of the Afterschool Caucus, I will keep fighting to increase funding for vital afterschool programs because too many children still come home to empty houses in the afternoon and too many families cannot afford to pay for afterschool care.”

With the Republicans now the majority in the House of Representatives, the House Education and Workforce Committee (formerly the Education and Labor Committee), has new leadership. Representative John Kline (R-MN) is its new chair, and Rep. George Miller (D-CA) is now the ranking member. The Committee includes 11 freshman Republicans. “They will be key targets for outreach and education about afterschool,” Grant said.

Senate leadership of the Health Education Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee remains unchanged, with Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) as committee chair and Senator Michael Enzi (R-WY) as ranking member. It will include two new Republicans and two new Democrats. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) has rotated off the Committee.

*Learn more about the Afterschool Caucus [here](#). Ask your Senators and Representative to show their support for afterschool programs by joining the Afterschool Caucuses [here](#).*



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

### **February 15, 2011**

The California Afterschool Network will host the English Learners Afterschool Summit in Downey, California. The summit will focus on best practices for teaching English learners in afterschool settings, identifying promising practices and creating recommendations for afterschool programs to use across the state.

Afterschool practitioners, content experts, technical assistance providers, educational leadership, and members of the legislature are encouraged to attend. *For more information, click [here](#).*

### **February 23 – 26, 2011**

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Beyond School Hours conference, hosted by Foundations, Inc., will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. Afterschool advocates will gather for professional development. Participants will also address before- and afterschool, extended day, community-based and summer opportunities, as well as workforce development, higher education, and field-building research. *For information, click [here](#).*

### **March 10 – 13, 2011**

The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) will host the NSTA National Conference on Science Education in San Francisco, California. The conference themes will include: “Embracing Technology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom;” “Accessing Language through Science and Mathematics Content;” “Exploring Earth, Wind and Fire;” and “Building Scientific Minds: Inspiring Teaching and Effective Learning.” *For more information, click [here](#).*


### **April 6 – 9, 2011**

The National Youth Leadership Council is sponsoring the National Service Learning Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. More than 2,200 people will participate in three days of general sessions, interactive workshops, thought leader spotlights, service-learning projects, and networking. The conference will include more than 100 exhibits, and more than 200 hands-on workshops and service-learning projects. *For more information, click [here](#).*


### **April 16 – 18, 2011**

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) will hold its annual convention in Orlando, Florida, featuring more than 200 member-led

workshops designed to obtain new ideas, learn best practices, and gather solutions to the challenges in the workplace. The 2011 NAA convention will feature five primary themes focused on the key issues that every afterschool professional faces every day: “STEM Beyond the Classroom;” “Global Learning in Afterschool;” “Advancing the Afterschool Profession;” “Leading Afterschool;” and “Learning in Afterschool.” *For more information, click [here](#).*

 **April 27 – 30, 2011**

The Best Out-of-School Time Collaborative (BOOST) is sponsoring the BOOST Conference in Palm Springs, California. The conference will offer a blend of networking and team-building opportunities, exceptional workshop presenters, and the latest trends and research in out-of-school time programming. More than 125 exhibitors will share the newest resources, products and services to enhance programs. *For more information, click [here](#).*

 **May 16 – 17, 2011**

The Afterschool Alliance will host the 10<sup>th</sup> annual *Afterschool for All Challenge* in Washington, D.C. The annual event brings together afterschool leaders, advocates, educators and local and state officials to discuss the hottest issues in afterschool, meet with Members of Congress and celebrate afterschool accomplishments. *For more information, click [here](#).*

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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).

The Alliance is proud to count among its founding partners the Mott Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, JCPenney Afterschool Fund, Open Society Institute/The After-School Corporation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation and the Creative Artists Agency Foundation.

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The *Afterschool Advocate* is produced for the Afterschool Alliance by PR Solutions, Inc., Washington, DC;  
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