



SPOTLIGHT ON SUMMER LEARNING

A new national coalition committed to embedding summer learning in federal education policy launched earlier this month, just before the June 21 celebration of [Summer Learning Day](#). The [National Summer Learning Coalition](#), as it is called, held a briefing at the U.S. Capitol to inform policymakers about the challenges associated with summer learning loss, its importance to education policy and new research on the benefits of summer learning. The Coalition's launch was backed by findings from a [new report](#) by the RAND Corporation showing that summer learning loss is cumulative, disproportionately affects low-income students and contributes to the achievement gap.

"The afterschool community has long known that learning does not stop at the end of the school day, just as it does not stop at the end of the school year," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "We intend to work with fellow coalition members to send the message that we need to make high-quality summer learning opportunities accessible to all students throughout the nation, and work with Congress and the Administration to make that goal a reality."

The Work Ahead

Congress may reauthorize the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (formerly known as the *No Child Left Behind Act*) this year, and it provides an opportunity to advance summer learning. The Coalition is seeking to make summer learning an essential component of education reform and youth *Summer continued on page seven...*

SENATORS CALL FOR "SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT" IN 21ST CCLC

On June 10, 16 U.S. Senators sent a [letter](#) to their colleagues encouraging support for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21st CCLC), the chief federal funding stream supporting before school, afterschool and summer learning programs.

Addressed to Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL), the letter calls for a "significant investment" in 21st CCLC funding.

It comes in response to a [recent 21st CCLC funding cut](#) by lawmakers totaling \$12.3 million for the current fiscal year. The cut will result in an estimated 12,300 children losing their programs.

"Cuts to 21st CCLC struck a heavy blow to students and working families earlier this year, leaving thousands without a safe and enriching place to go after school and before parents get home from work. We know that lawmakers are facing difficult choices about the federal budget, but afterschool programs provide vital support that families and communities rely on. We thank these Members of Congress for speaking out on behalf of the children and families who rely on afterschool programs, and we look forward to their continued support," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant.

In the letter, the Senators acknowledged the budget challenges but urged the Subcommittee to support 21st CCLC. They noted the help high-quality afterschool *21st CCLC continued on page eight...*

OUTREACH

Making the Most of Recess

Congress' August recess, when lawmakers return to their states and districts to meet with constituents, can be an ideal opportunity for advocates to share their views about the benefits afterschool programs bring to communities. Nothing speaks to the power of afterschool as well as the students who are reaping the benefits of high-quality programs.

For advocates with summer programs, or with afterschool programs that re-open in August, now is the perfect time to begin planning [in-person congressional visits to programs](#).

The work begins with inviting a lawmaker to come see the program first-hand. There are many ways to structure an invitation – send a package of artwork or invitation cards made by afterschool students program to the lawmaker's office; send an email to the office with links to your program's website or Facebook page; or simply call your lawmaker's office and ask to speak with the education staff assistant. It is important to send an invitation early, before a lawmaker's schedule fills up.

Follow-up the email or snail mail invitation with a phone call to the congressional office.

If your program receives 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) funding, be sure to look at the Afterschool Alliance's [21st CCLC funding chart](#) and see how your state would be affected by cuts to the initiative. This is an important issue to raise with your lawmaker during a site visit, as his/her support is crucial.

Site visits this August can be critical – particularly this year – as lawmakers debate the future of education reform. Afterschool is an essential component of student learning and enrichment, and the more opportunities lawmakers have to experience it, the better for afterschool and the children who rely on it.

For more information on reaching out to lawmakers, click [here](#). To find out how to contact your representative, click [here](#). To find out how to contact your senator, click [here](#).



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 Teen Programs

Best Buy is sponsoring grants averaging \$4,000 to \$6,000 (and up to \$10,000) for nonprofits that help teens excel in school and develop life and leadership skills. Added consideration will be given to organizations that serve a diverse group of at-risk teens and provide youth with access to opportunity through technology. Nonprofits must be located within 50 miles of a Best Buy store to be eligible to apply. The deadline is August 1. *For more information, click [here](#).*

Awards for STEM Education

Ashoka's Changemakers and Carnegie Corporation New York are sponsoring a competition to source the brightest and most exciting ideas for enriching STEM education for high-risk youth in the U.S. Partnering for Excellence: Innovations in Science + Technology + Engineering + Math Education, an online collaborative competition, is looking for models that bring STEM expertise into public schools, thereby using resources from the private and not-for-profit sectors in new ways to further student learning. Compelling entries will embed shared accountability for student achievement for both the partner organization and the school in their design. Winners are eligible for more than \$120,000 in cash and in-kind prizes. The deadline is August 3. *For more information, click [here](#).*

Grants for Volunteerism

Home Depot is awarding up to \$5,000 in the form of store credit to purchase tools, materials or services to organizations that use volunteers to improve the physical health of their community. Nonprofits and tax-exempt public schools or public agencies are eligible to apply. Organizations with projects that focus on veterans, seniors and/or the disabled are especially encouraged to apply. The deadline is October 31. *For more information, click [here](#).*



IN HER OWN WORDS...

Voices from the Afterschool Storybook...

“A year ago, I partnered with my colleagues, Sheryl Goldsy and Etola Berry, to create the Chat and Chew Alliance. Our goal is to provide a resource to help afterschool staff to share ideas, and support their afterschool program’s day-to-day functions, as well as each other. We serve the Kansas City area and enjoy the support of a range of programs...

We’re extremely proud of what we’ve accomplished with the Chat and Chew Alliance so far and look forward to doing more for our afterschool professionals.”

-- Erica Kreisler, Lees Summit, Missouri

To read Kreisler’s story, and read more afterschool voices from across the country, click [here](#). Share your story [here](#).



IN THE NEWS...

California – After decades without a formal program, music can once again be heard in Esparto Elementary School, the *Sacramento Bee* reports. Thanks to a partnership between Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute and the Sacramento-based Vocal and Instrumental Teaching Academy, the school this year offered an afterschool music education program called “Link Up!” Students learned the recorder, string instruments and choral singing, while young teachers had the opportunity to gain real-world experience leading the program. The more than 100 students in the program performed at the end of the school year at California State University, Sacramento’s Music Recital Hall, accompanied by an orchestra.

Delaware – Teenagers in Wilmington will stay out of trouble and bring home a paycheck this summer, thanks to [UrbanPromise](#), a faith- and community-based program that runs

afterschool and summer programs in challenging neighborhoods. About 30 teens, ages 14 to 18, have been hired as “StreetLeaders” to help out at the six-week summer program, which is expected to host more than 300 children this year. But the StreetLeaders won’t be finished after the summer, the *News Journal* reports. The newest members of the UrbanPromise family will be given a job during the school year, and have access to a support system of mentors, academic support and guidance for college, training classes, team-building events and weekend retreats. *Learn more about UrbanPromise [here](#).*

Kentucky – Six students at South Warren High School in Bowling Green are on their way to becoming certified pilots, thanks to a unique afterschool program. The aviation academy – the only one in Warren County and one of only 12 in the state – has taught students how to design and repair aircrafts, the rules and regulations of piloting, and how to fly planes. Local pilots have visited the club as guest speakers, and have helped students learn to use flight simulators. The students also participated in a wing-building competition this spring, often coming to school early, staying until dark, and working on weekends, the *Bowling Green Daily News* reports.

Maryland – The 21st Century Dream Team Rhythm Club, run by [Afterschool Ambassador](#) Mark Smith, was [featured on the Fox-5 Morning Show](#) on May 31, showing off their drumming, beat boxing, singing and dancing in nine live segments throughout the morning. Their final performance of the year, the following weekend, was sold out and raised more than \$1,000 for Relay for Life. The afterschool program is comprised of students from seven 21st Century Community Learning Centers in St. Mary’s County Public Schools. They participate in an academic program each day before rehearsing their

routines, and have performed 43 shows this year. *Watch the video [here](#).*

Massachusetts – Students who might have otherwise not been able to afford the cost of a sports team can now play lacrosse at West Middle School in Brockton. The MetroLacrosse program, facilitated through the city’s 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool program, is free for students. Volunteer coaches run the team and, thanks to an agreement with a sporting goods manufacturer, equipment and jerseys are provided for the 40 boys and girls who have joined, the *Boston Globe* reports. MetroLacrosse plans to expand the program to all the middle schools and the high school in the Brockton school district next year.

Utah – Aspiring doctors across the state are proverbial ‘flies on the wall’ in operating rooms, thanks to a partnership between the Utah Education Department and Intermountain Healthcare. Now in its sixth year, the Virtual Healthcare Interactive program allows students at participating high schools to watch taped, narrated surgeries, and then interview the surgeons who performed them. Students also get on-site visits from nurse educators and patients who have undergone similar surgeries. “This is different than purchasing a surgery video or just watching a surgery on TV because students are able to talk live with the surgeon,” Thalea Longhurst, health science education specialist at the state Education Department told *Education Daily*.



BECOMING FLUENT IN AFTERSCHOOL

The Afterschool Alliance has released a new Issue Brief examining how afterschool programs can help English Language Learners (ELLs) – students learning English

for the first time – hone their English speaking skills and succeed in school.

The population of ELLs in the United States is growing, and represents a diverse group of students with distinct needs. Most were born in the United States, but may come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and have parents who are not proficient in English. Schools often lack the time and resources to incorporate English language learning during the day, and ELLs fall further behind as they are tasked with learning a new language and simultaneously keeping up with academic content in a language they have not yet mastered.

“With school days that are increasingly focused on stringent curriculums and testing, many ELL students have much to gain from the less formal enrichment available outside of the school day,” the Issue Brief says. “Afterschool programs, with lower student-staff ratios, flexible schedules and informal environments, can better target individual needs and offer ELL students a chance to practice communicating in their new language.”

The Brief offers examples of afterschool programs across the country that are already helping ELLs succeed, and includes policy recommendations to promote language learning in afterschool programs.

For more information, click [here](#). Read the Issue Brief [here](#).



AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE SEEKS STEM INFO!

The Afterschool Alliance is developing a report to demonstrate the impact of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in afterschool and summer programs. The team developing the report invites high-quality STEM afterschool programs from across the country to submit

highlights of their evaluation reports for inclusion in the project.

The goal of the compilation is to analyze trends and assess the effect of STEM learning in the afterschool and summer learning spaces. For an example of the type of information of programs already documented, click [here](#).

The material will be used to develop a STEM-focused companion to the [Evaluations Backgrounder](#) that the Alliance recently released.

Providers are asked to share this solicitation with their networks. Please send summaries or highlights of reports to Ramya Sankar Afterschool Alliance Research Assistant, at rsankar@afterschoolalliance.org by June 30, 2011.



MAKING COLLEGE A REALITY

[KnowHow2GO](#), a public service campaign now in its fifth year, is designed to encourage and support low-income, first-generation students as they take the necessary steps towards college. Sponsored by the Lumina Foundation, the Ad Council and the American Council on Education, the project is using a website and media campaign to reach out to middle school and high school students to offer guidance and resources.

KnowHow2GO also features a network of educational institutions, youth organizations, and community groups that offer support to students.

The campaign recently released new public service announcements (PSAs) for television, radio and print. The PSAs and collateral materials are available for download on the [campaign's partner site](#).

Visit <http://www.knowhow2go.org/> for more information.



RESOURCES

Time to Invent

To extend the impact of their popular science and engineering shows, Boston's public broadcasting station, WGBH, created the [Time to Invent Club](#) – a hands-on afterschool program for fifth graders. The program was piloted at afterschool programs in Massachusetts and Indiana over two years, and the club's activity guide and resources are now available for other programs to use to lead the program. The free activity guide, which features 16 activities and handouts, tips for staff and mentors, and additional resources, is available for download on the Time to Invent website. *For more information, click [here](#).*

Resources from NASA

NASA is offering free access to its engineering curriculum, "Engineering Design for Human Exploration – Energy and Power." The lesson plans are designed to teach students, grades nine to 12, the engineering design process and include activities like building and launching a payload-style model rocket. *For more information, click [here](#).*

To celebrate NASA's "Year of the Solar System," the agency is also offering access to a collection of images called "From Earth to the Solar System" (FETTSS). The high-resolution images can be downloaded free, and displayed in an exhibit or other format. The FETTSS website also features supplemental materials, and guidelines and ideas for exhibits. *For more information, click [here](#).*



GET YOUR FILL OF NEWS AT AFTERSCHOOL SNACK!

“Legislation that would help ensure the safety of children enrolled in afterschool programs was recently reintroduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. If passed, the *Child Protection Improvements Act* (H.R. 1360 / S. 645) will make it easier for afterschool programs, camps, clubs and other youth-serving organizations to access federal criminal background checks by creating a permanent national system for these organizations to access FBI fingerprint searches on potential volunteers and employees.” – Erik Peterson *Read more of this blog post [here](#).*

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:

- [Webinar with David Kirp Discusses Importance of Strong Community Partnerships](#)
- [English Language Learners: Becoming Fluent in Afterschool](#)
- [Legislation Would Close Background Check Loophole for Afterschool Providers](#)
- [Survey Shows State of STEM in Afterschool](#)

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](#).



Summer Continued from page one...
development.

“There is growing recognition among policymakers that schools and communities

should combat summer learning loss,” said National Summer Learning Association Interim CEO Matthew Boulay. “Given the research on summer and the achievement gap, summer learning programs must be an essential component of any strategy aimed at improving student achievement.”

Speakers at the June 14 congressional briefing discussed the role of summer learning in efforts to improve education from the early years through high school. Panelists included representatives from The Annie E. Casey Foundation, The Walmart Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and the American Association of School Administrators.

The Coalition is comprised of 45 organizations, including the Afterschool Alliance, National Summer Learning Association, America’s Promise Alliance, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Coalition for Community Schools, National Dropout Prevention Center, The After-School Corporation and others. They have pledged to incorporate summer learning into their advocacy.

Study Highlights Summer Learning Loss, Offers Recommendations

[Making Summer Count: How Summer Programs Can Boost Children’s Learning](#) is the latest study to confirm that the “summer slide” is deeply detrimental to students. It was released June 13 by the RAND Corporation. Researchers found that summer learning loss disproportionately affects low-income students and that cost is the main barrier to implementing summer learning programs.

According to the report, students who regularly attend high-quality summer learning programs have positive outcomes, and the effects of summer learning programs can endure for at least two years after the program (to date, no studies have looked beyond the two-year mark).

Yet for students without summer learning opportunities, the outlook can be grim.

Researchers noted, “Most disturbing is that it appears that summer learning loss is cumulative and that, over time, these periods of differential learning rates between low-income and higher-income students contribute substantially to the achievement gap in reading. It may be that efforts to close the achievement gap during the school year alone will be unsuccessful.”

The cost of summer programming provides an additional hurdle to many. The report finds, “Providing a high-quality summer learning program can cost between \$1,109 and \$2,801 per child for a six-hour-per-day, five-week program. Although preliminary evidence suggests that the cost of summer school programs can be less than two-thirds of what providers spend on programs during the academic year (on a per-slot, per-week basis), summer programs nonetheless represent an additional cost to districts, especially relative to other interventions that simply update or reform practices used during the school year.”

In addition, the report notes that the recession has made it more difficult to pay for summer programming. “The recent economic downturn has created such severe shortfalls in state education budgets that many districts across the country have cut what little summer school programming they have offered. However, district leaders who are committed to such programs have found creative ways to fund them.”

Researchers recommend partnerships as a way to mitigate high costs. “We also found that partnerships between districts and community-based organizations (CBOs) provided increased benefits and lowered costs. CBOs offered opportunities for enrichment beyond those typically offered in schools, such as kayaking and fencing, that encouraged students to enroll and attend - steps critical to program effectiveness.”

The report includes recommendations for districts and providers as well as for policymakers and funders. They include

investing in high-quality staff and incorporating best-practices into programs; exploring partnerships and a variety of funding opportunities; and for policymakers to identify stable funding sources and provide clear guidance on restrictions on requirements of funding.

The study was commissioned by the Wallace Foundation. *To read more, click [here](#).*



21st CCLC continued from page one... programs provide children and working families, and highlighted the fact that 18 million children did not have access to quality afterschool and summer learning programs before this cut.

“Support for afterschool is broad, deep, enduring and bipartisan. Even in this challenging economy, Americans recognize the need to increase support to these critical programs,” the letter says.

The House and Senate are expected to determine FY2012 funding levels for education programs, including 21st CCLC, later this summer. Advocates can contact their Senators and Representatives and ask for support [here](#).



SEND YOUR ARTWORK TODAY!

The Afterschool Alliance’s [Lights On Afterschool poster contest](#) is underway – don’t miss out! Students in afterschool programs are invited to submit [artwork](#) for consideration. The winning image will be printed on 70,000 posters sent to afterschool programs from coast to coast to use at their *Lights On Afterschool* celebrations. The image will also be featured on our *Lights On Afterschool* website. The deadline is June 30. *For more information, click [here](#).*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

June 21, 2011

The National Summer Learning Association is sponsoring National Summer Learning Day – a great opportunity to showcase your program and get the word out about the importance of summer learning. The Association is offering an archived webinar series; each webinar looks at a component of the planning process and offers suggestions for planning a Summer Learning Day event. *Check out the [archived webinars](#) and learn more about National Summer Learning Day [here](#).*

July 7 – 9, 2011

The Asia Society Partnership for Global Learning is a national network of K-12 educators and policymakers dedicated to sharing best practices and advancing public policy to integrate global knowledge and skills within the mainstream of American education. The Partnership's fourth annual conference, "Global Connections, Global Learning, Global Advocacy" will take place in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area. *For more information, click [here](#).*

July 11 – 14, 2011

The National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST) is hosting a summer seminar series for afterschool professionals in Boston. Seminar topics include preparing the next generation of out-of-school time leaders, using the Afterschool Program Assessment System, training staff and assisting with quality improvement. *For more information, click [here](#).*

July 25 – 27, 2011

The U.S. Department of Education will hold the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Summer Institute at the Gaylord National Hotel & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. There will be a pre-conference session for SEA Coordinators and Project Directors on Monday, July 25. This

year's theme is "A Network of Partners Supporting Increased Learning in 21st CCLC Programs." The Institute will include more than 100 interactive breakout sessions. *For a full agenda, registration information and more, click [here](#).*

October 17 – 18, 2011

School's Out Washington will host The Bridge from School to Afterschool and Back Conference in Seattle. Participants at the ninth annual Bridge Conference will attend workshops and hear from speakers on topic such as youth voice and engagement; science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); sustainability; and social/emotional learning. *For more information, click [here](#).*

October 20, 2011

The Afterschool Alliance will sponsor the 12th annual *Lights On Afterschool*, raising awareness about the benefits that afterschool programs offer to families and communities across the country. *Lights On Afterschool* is the only national rally for afterschool programs, and in recent years it has included some 7,500 events throughout the United States and at U.S. military bases worldwide. *For more information, to plan an event or share your plans, and to sign up for free materials, click [here](#).*

October 31 – November 4, 2011

The California Afterschool Network will host 2011 STEP UP High School and AMP UP Middle School conferences in San Diego, California. Both conferences convene statewide and national afterschool practitioners, including administrators, district managers/coordinators, site directors and frontline staff. STEP UP will be held October 31 to November 2, and AMP UP will be November 2 to November 4. *For more information, click [here](#).*

✍ February 15 – 18, 2012

Foundations, Inc. will hold its 15th annual Beyond School Hours conference in Burlingame, California. Thousands of afterschool advocates will gather for professional development, and will hear from Geoffrey Canada, author and president/CEO of Harlem Children's Zone in New York City, and other experts. *For more information, click [here](#).*



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.

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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