

MEDIA ADVISORY
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What Are Kids Doing After School in Chicago?

Afterschool Alliance, JCPenney, Afterschool Matters to Release Findings from Survey On Afterschool Participation, Satisfaction and Demand in Chicago

How many Chicago schoolchildren are enrolled in afterschool programs compared with the rest of the country? How many are left unsupervised after school? How many participate in summer learning programs?

A special report on afterschool and summer learning program participation, satisfaction and demand in Chicago answers those questions and more. The report was sponsored by JCPenney and will be released at a news conference at:

9:45 AM, Wednesday, October 20
Gallery 37 Center for the Arts, Room 513
66 East Randolph Street
Chicago

WITH

Jodi Gibson, Community Relations and Afterschool Director, JCPenney
Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance
Mary Ellen Caron, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services
Neil Nicoll, President and CEO, YMCA of USA

The new report, *Chicago After 3PM*, identifies key efforts to expand quality afterschool and summer learning programs in the city. It is being released on the eve of *Lights On Afterschool*, the only nationwide rally for afterschool programs. This year, more than a million people are expected to participate in some 7,500 events across the United States – including in Chicago – and at U.S. military bases worldwide.

Lights On Afterschool also features a petition drive to urge Congress not to deny or divert afterschool funds. Parents, kids, educators, community leaders and others are signing the petition, which is also available [online](#), asking Congress not to divert already limited 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) dollars to other programs. 21st CCLC is the chief federal funding stream for afterschool, providing grants to local programs that serve more than 1 million children nationwide.

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About the Afterschool Alliance:

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

About JCPenney's Commitment to Afterschool:

As a leading corporate advocate for the afterschool issue, JCPenney works with afterschool organizations to increase the accessibility and affordability of afterschool programs across the country. Through its legacy of supporting youth and charitable organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, The Y, National 4-H, United Way and FIRST, JCPenney formalized its commitment to the afterschool issue by establishing the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Since its inception, more than \$100 million has been distributed to afterschool programs across every JCPenney community thereby making it possible for more children to participate in life-enriching programs that inspire them to be smart, strong and socially responsible. For more information, visit www.jcpennyafterschool.org.