



MEDIA ALERT  
June 5, 2017

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**Afterschool Advocates from 46 States to Gather in D.C. Tomorrow to Urge Congress to Reject Trump Administration Proposal to Defund Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs**

Hundreds of afterschool providers, educators, community leaders, advocates, parents and youth from Alaska to Alabama will come to Washington D.C. tomorrow to educate Congress about the urgent need to increase – rather than end – funding for the only federal initiative dedicated to afterschool programs. President Trump has proposed to eliminate the [21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers](#) initiative in fiscal year 2018.

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual [Afterschool for All Challenge](#) will take place Tuesday and Wednesday, June 6 and 7, and will include workshops on key education issues, congressional meetings and an Afterschool Showcase highlighting the innovative programming offered by afterschool programs across the country, from STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) to community service to health to the arts.

Workshops on Tuesday, June 6 at the Dupont Circle Hotel at 1500 New Hampshire Ave. NW in Washington D.C. will address:

- **Afterschool and English Language Learners: How Programs Are Supporting Lifelong Success**, led by experts from Ohio's Columbus State Community College's ESL afterschool communities, Wisconsin's Raider's ARK and North Carolina's OurBRIDGE for Kids (11:00 am – 12:30 pm);
- **STEM Policy: Federal and State Opportunities**, led by a representative from the STEM Education Coalition and afterschool leaders in Iowa, Maryland and Vermont (11:00 am – 12:30 pm);
- **State ESSA Plans: What's at Stake for Afterschool?**, led by a representative from the National Association of State Boards of Education and afterschool leaders from Illinois and Pennsylvania (11:00 am – 12:30 pm);
- **Messaging Around Social and Emotional Skills: Research, Support and Policy Landscape**, representatives from Edge Research, the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives and WINGS for kids will also discuss recent research on social and emotional learning, funded by the Wallace Foundation (1 – 2:30 pm); and
- **Positioning Afterschool Programs as Career and Technical Education Partners**, led by afterschool leaders from Wisconsin and North Dakota (1 – 2:30 pm).

Also on Tuesday, June 6, the Afterschool Alliance has organized an Afterschool Showcase that will feature remarks from parents and students from Fairbanks, Alaska and Denton, Md.,

performances by afterschool students from Takoma Park, Md., will honor congressional champions and present the 2017 Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award to an Ohio-based program. The Showcase will also include innovative STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), health and wellness, music, and dance afterschool demonstrations by students representing afterschool programs in D.C., Charlotte, N.C., Columbus, Ohio, Hampton and Harrisonburg, Va., and Arcadia, Wisc. It will take place at:

**4:00 pm on Tuesday, June 6**  
**Dirksen Senate Office Building (Room 106)**

On Wednesday, June 7 afterschool providers from 46 states will meet with their senators and representatives to talk about the many ways afterschool programs support children, families, schools and communities. They will remind elected officials that quality afterschool and summer learning programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working parents, and discuss the consequences of accepting President Trump's budget proposal. Thousands of advocates are also [participating in a national Call-In Day from their home communities](#).

Participation in afterschool programs has increased to 10.2 million students nationwide, up from 6.5 million in 2004, according to [the America After 3PM household survey](#) of 30,000 U.S. families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance. But the unmet demand for afterschool programs has increased as well. Today, for every child in an afterschool program, there are two more whose parents say they would participate, if a program were available. One in five students in the country today is unsupervised after the school day ends.

*Note: Workshops and the Afterschool Showcase are open to media. To arrange an interview with an afterschool provider from a particular state, please contact [Luci Manning](#) at 202/371-1999.*

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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).*