



NEWS RELEASE
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San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom Honored as an Afterschool Champion in Nation's Capital

*Parents, Educators, Students, Afterschool Leaders, City and State Leaders
Urge Congress to Reject Proposed Funding Cut*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Afterschool Alliance today honored San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom for his support for afterschool programs at the “Breakfast of Champions,” a gala event in Washington, D.C. Mayor Newsom, who also spoke at the event, was one of 16 individuals and four organizations honored for their tireless work on behalf of afterschool programs. He was nominated by the California Afterschool Network.

Mayor Newsom has pledged to provide afterschool for all elementary and middle school-age youth in San Francisco by 2010. This pledge has led to formal partnerships among the San Francisco Unified School District, the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, the Recreation and Parks Department, foundations, parent groups, and private and non-profit afterschool providers to ensure all children have access to high-quality afterschool programs.

“I am honored that Afterschool Alliance has chosen to recognize San Francisco’s efforts toward universal afterschool for our students,” said Mayor Newsom. “As the federal government continues its threats to cut afterschool funding, it is increasingly incumbent on local cities to ensure youth have access to the quality tutoring, mentoring, and other enrichment activities that will help them succeed in school.”

Mayor Newsom’s Afterschool for All initiative has helped to create more than 2,700 afterschool slots and 1,250 enriched afterschool slots. The Mayor’s Afterschool for All Technical Assistance Collaborative has created a leadership track of workshops for afterschool program staff and a mentoring program to foster the development of emerging afterschool leaders, to ensure high quality afterschool programs.

Mayor Newsom has also helped launch and cultivate several out-of-school time efforts, including the San Francisco Beacons Initiative, which serves 6,400 youth annually. Under his leadership, the city produced a comprehensive *Afterschool Resource Guide*, which lists more than 400 local afterschool programs to distribute to parents, schools and community organizations.

The “Breakfast of Champions” is part of the seventh annual *Afterschool for All Challenge* which brings together hundreds of parents, educators, children, program directors and advocates from around the country for a series of events and meetings with Members of Congress. The 2008 *Challenge* is co-sponsored by the National League of Cities and the Afterschool Alliance. Following the “Breakfast,” the advocates fanned out across Capitol Hill for meetings with their U.S. Senators and Representatives, and congressional staff.

“Parents, children and communities rely on afterschool programs to keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “But federal funding isn’t keeping up with the demand for afterschool, and President Bush proposes to cut federal afterschool funding even further. We’re in our nation’s capital this week to honor afterschool champions and remind lawmakers that these cuts are short-sighted and counterproductive. All kids need the opportunities that afterschool programs provide. Bipartisan support in Congress defeated the last proposed cut to afterschool programs, and we are seeking bipartisan support again this year so we can counter the President’s proposal and bring quality afterschool programs to all children who need them.”

This year, President Bush proposed cutting the federal budget for afterschool programs by \$281 million and converting the successful 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool initiative (21st CCLC) into a risky voucher system. If Congress agrees to his proposal, 300,000 students would lose access to afterschool programs.

Other city champions honored at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* are: Boise Mayor David Bieter; Columbia Mayor Bob Coble; Kacy Conley, YMCA of Central Maryland in Baltimore; St. Paul Mayor Christopher Coleman; Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey; Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell; Savannah Mayor Otis Johnson; Morgantown Mayor Ron Justice; Charlotte City Council Member James Mitchell; Missouri State Representative Danie Moore; New York City Commissioner of the Department of Youth and Community Development Jeanne Mullgrav; Linda Robinson, Kentucky Department of Education; New Hampshire State Senator Kathleen Sgambati; Maxine Quintana, Denver Mayor’s Office for Education and Children; and Pennsylvania State Representative Jake Wheatley.

The Afterschool Alliance and MetLife Foundation also presented the first-ever MetLife Afterschool Innovator Awards at the “Breakfast of Champions” to four organizations that have developed and implemented innovative afterschool practices. The awardees are profiled in *Afterschool Innovations in Brief*, a series of Issue Briefs developed by the Afterschool Alliance with funding from MetLife Foundation. They are: The After-School Corporation in New York; LA’s BEST in California; The Native Youth Club in South Dakota; and Lincoln Community Learning Centers in Nebraska.

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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.