



News Release
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Newly Elected Leaders Should Make Bold, Historic Investment in America's Children

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

“At this time when one in five students nationwide is unsupervised after the school day ends, we urge President-Elect Donald Trump and the newly elected Congress to increase the federal investment in the quality afterschool and summer learning programs that too many children need and are without. These programs keep children and youth safe and constructively engaged during the hours when schools are closed but parents are still at their jobs, providing alternatives to crime, substance abuse and other risky behaviors.

We look forward to working with the Trump administration to expand the federal investment in afterschool, which will support the president-elect's commitment to child care, to helping families set aside money to foster their children's development, and to improving our economy.

We will encourage the new administration and Congress to make a bold, historic move to grow the number of low-income students from urban, suburban and rural communities who attend federally supported afterschool and summer learning programs through increases in funding for both 21st Century Community Learning Centers and the Child Care Development Block Grant.

Doing so is essential to helping the next generation succeed in school and in life; providing the support working families need to help our economy thrive; equalizing opportunity for all children; promoting science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning; improving social-emotional skills; and preparing a strong, skilled workforce ready to compete in a global economy.

We also encourage the new administration to hold a summit or conference to examine the best ways to teach workforce skills to the next generation, with a focus on the contributions afterschool programs and their community- and faith-based partners make by connecting students with colleges and businesses and by supplementing and enhancing what they learn during the regular school day.

The [America After 3PM](#) household survey of more than 30,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, found that, for every child in an afterschool program, there are two more whose parents say they would participate, if a program were available. In most cases, it isn't. Unmet demand is especially high in rural communities and communities of concentrated poverty. That needs to change.

We congratulate all the newly elected, and re-elected, officials at all levels who won their races this week and look forward to working with them to grow the number of quality afterschool and summer learning programs.”

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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.