The Empire State Building: 
Five Years of Lighting Up for Afterschool

New York City Landmark Will Be Lit in Yellow in 
Support of Afterschool Programs on October 18

On the evening of October 18, for the fifth year in a row, the iconic Empire State Building will 
be bathed in yellow light as part of the only nationwide rally for afterschool programs. On that 
day, people all across the country and at U.S. military bases worldwide will celebrate the 13th 
annual Lights On Afterschool, organized by the Afterschool Alliance.

This year, schools, community centers, parks, malls, state capitols and other settings will play 
host to more than 7,500 events at which youth a chance to showcase the skills they learn and 
talents they develop at their afterschool programs, and send the message that millions more kids 
need quality afterschool programs. More than one million people are expected to participate in 
Lights On Afterschool rallies again this year.

“For the fifth year in a row, the Empire State Building will help us shine a light on the 
afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families,” said 
Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “We are proud to have the support of such a 
revered and iconic institution as we rally to protect the funding we need to keep the doors to our 
afterschool programs open.”

For years, the federal investment in afterschool has lagged far behind the need. In 2007, the No 
Child Left Behind Act authorized $2.5 billion for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, 
the chief federal funding stream for afterschool. Yet federal funding stands at less than half that 
today. Congress is currently considering legislation that would allow other programs to compete 
for already-limited 21st Century Community Learning Centers funds.

A significant body of research demonstrates that students who attend 21st CCLC afterschool 
programs regularly are more likely to improve their grades, tests scores and overall academic 
behavior. More than 15 million school-age children – more than one in four kids in the United 
States – are unsupervised after the school day ends. The parents of 18 million children say they 
would enroll their kids in afterschool programs – if programs were available.

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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).