



MEDIA ADVISORY
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202/371-1999

Experts to Examine High Demand for Afterschool Programs in Rural Areas

Afterschool programs in rural communities provide many essential supports to children and families—from enriching STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning to providing connections to caring mentors to offering healthy snacks and meals to students who might otherwise go without. These programs offer effective and affordable ways to overcome obstacles confronting rural communities and help students realize their full potential. Yet there are not nearly enough afterschool programs to meet the demand in rural communities.

At a congressional briefing on Tuesday, a panel of experts will discuss how afterschool programs in rural communities foster student achievement, family engagement and community development, and what steps are needed to increase the number of these programs. The briefing will focus on data gathered from rural parents and afterschool providers that are featured in [2016 America After 3PM Special Report: The Growing Importance of Afterschool in Rural Communities](#). It will be held:

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Tuesday, July 26
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 385

WITH
Liz Nusken, YMCA of the USA
Tammy Shay, Maryland Out of School Time (MOST) Network
Nikki Yamashiro, Afterschool Alliance

Quality afterschool programs – which keep kids safe, help working families and inspire students to learn – do a tremendous amount to help young people in rural communities develop the skills they need to succeed in school and in life.

Afterschool Alliance Vice President of Policy Erik Peterson will moderate the briefing, which is sponsored by the Senate Afterschool Caucus. The *2016 America After 3PM Special Report: The Growing Importance of Afterschool in Rural Communities* is sponsored by John Deere.

NOTE: RSVP to Grace Shamlian (gshamlian@wpllc.net) by July 25, 2016.

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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.