



Media Alert

For March 28, 2024 at 3pm

Contact: [Magen Eisenstat](#)

202/609-9889

What Do Youth Want and Need from Their Afterschool Programs?

The Afterschool Alliance and Collective for Youth Empowerment in STEM & Society will sponsor a Youth Voice Town Hall to give afterschool students the chance to discuss what's on their minds and the opportunities they need to thrive. At this special event taking place online on Thursday, March 28 at 3 pm, youth from afterschool programs around the country will share their afterschool experiences, interests, and concerns.

Youth panelists representing the Afterschool Alliance, Collective for Youth Empowerment in STEM & Society, and the Million Girls Moonshot will discuss the need for greater access to afterschool programs, the opportunities they provide to mentor younger youth, build connections and make friends in a safe space, and more. Student panelists from Alabama, Florida, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia, and Washington D.C. will participate.

This interactive event, created and run by youth and designed to amplify young voices, will be:

Thursday, March 28

3 pm

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-k20FOXm8g>

Some 24.7 million U.S. children not in an afterschool program would be enrolled, if a program were available to them, according to a survey of 1,500 parents commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance and conducted by Edge Research in 2022. That is the highest number ever recorded. Unmet demand for afterschool programs is significantly higher among Latino and Black children (at 60% and 54% respectively) than among children overall (49%). Cost is the top barrier to enrollment, cited by 57% of parents as a reason for not enrolling their child. Ninety percent of parents rate the quality of the afterschool program their child attends as excellent (51%) or very good (39%).

#

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.