



NEWS RELEASE
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President's Budget Proposal Would Undermine Safety, Academic Success of Nearly 15,000 Oregon Children

The Fiscal Year 2005 budget that President Bush proposed to Congress in February would deny thousands of Oregon children the chance to participate in afterschool programs, advocates said. The No Child Left Behind Act authorizes \$2 billion in federal funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) afterschool initiative in Fiscal Year 2005. But President Bush recommended that Congress flatline the afterschool initiative at just \$1 billion again next year. Under the President's proposal, afterschool programs in Oregon would receive \$10,301,415 rather than the \$20,602,830 authorized by No Child Left Behind. This amount will provide afterschool programs to 14,716 Oregon children, rather than 29,433.

"The President's decision not to increase funding for afterschool programs undermines children's safety and academic success after school," said Kitty Thiel, Coordinator, Canby Community Education and 2004 Afterschool Ambassador. "Afterschool programs are critical to our communities. Kids depend on them for homework help, tutoring and new, fun things to do and learn. And parents rely on them for peace of mind – knowing their children are safe and supervised after the school day ends."

In anticipation of the President's budget proposal, all 14 women Senators sent a historic bipartisan letter to Bush requesting that he recommend enough funding to permit the 21st CCLC initiative to grow in the next fiscal year. The President did not.

"We will work with parents, educators, religious and business leaders, and concerned citizens to convince lawmakers to increase funding for afterschool in Fiscal Year '05," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Judy Y. Samelson. "It's time, and it's what was promised. The need is clear, and public support is overwhelming. Where afterschool is concerned, the No Child Left Behind Act was right to promise \$2 billion in the coming year, as part of a series of gradual increases in afterschool funding. That's where America needs to go."

Last year, the President proposed a deep cut to the 21st CCLC budget. Congress ignored his request and restored the afterschool budget to \$1 billion last year. The Alliance will urge Congress to increase the President's afterschool spending request again this year, Samelson said.

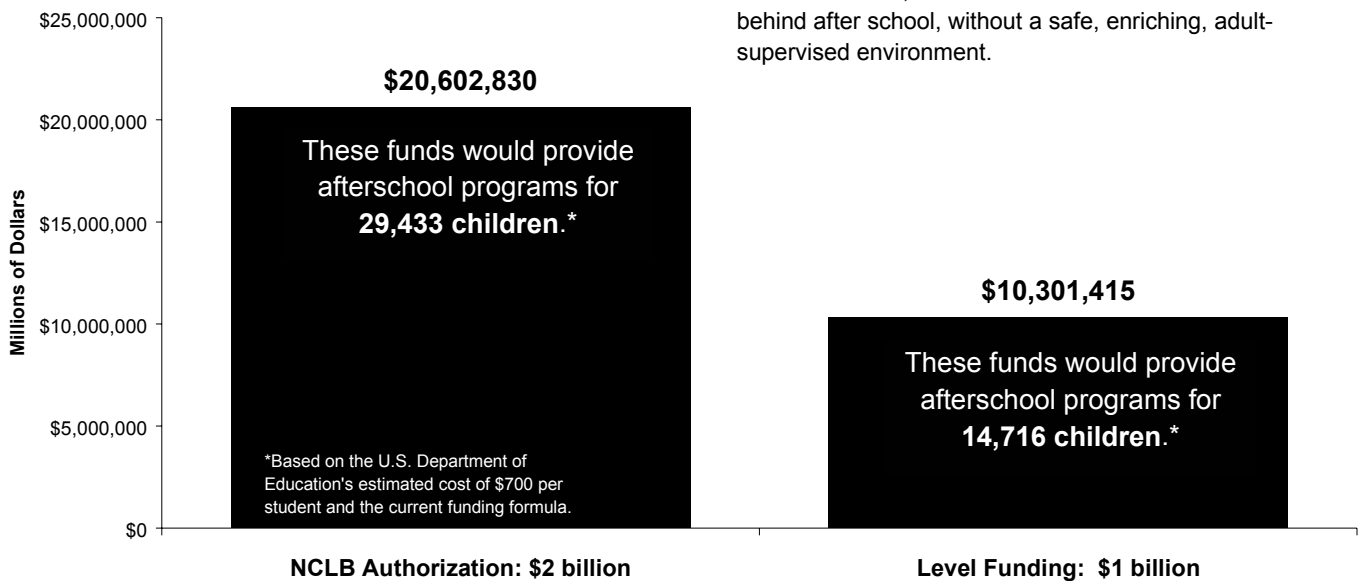
The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities dedicated to ensuring that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by 2010. For more information, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org.

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Undermining Children's Safety and Academic Success After School: President's Budget Proposal Flat Funds 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Oregon

The gap between the \$2 billion authorized for afterschool programs by the landmark No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the \$1 billion in the President's Fiscal Year 2005 budget proposal means that, if Congress follows the President's lead, 1.4 million children in America will be left behind after school, without a safe, enriching, adult-supervised environment.



State's 21st CCLC Allocation at Possible Funding Levels for FY 2005

These amounts are estimates based on the February 12, 2004, Department of Education Budget Tables.