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U.S. Department of Education

Engage Every Student Today: Issue No. 1

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The Engage Every Student Today Bulletin is a source of support for afterschool and summer learning programs, school districts, cities, and states as they answer U.S. Secretary Cardona's bold call to action for universal out-of-school time learning opportunities for every child who wants to participate nationwide. This bi-monthly bulletin will share timely resources and strategies to expand access to engage every student in high-quality afterschool and summer learning opportunities.

NEWS



Federal Pandemic Relief Funds: City, State, and School District Investments in Afterschool and Summer Learning

To help students recover from the pandemic, the Biden Administration has made available approximately \$130 billion in COVID-19 relief funds to school districts, states, and local governments. Many are investing in afterschool and summer

learning programs as a key strategy to support student well-being and academic growth. The [Afterschool Alliance](#) and the [National League of Cities](#) partnered to develop a [tracker and interactive map](#) showcasing how

cities, states and school districts across the country are using their CARES and American Rescue Plan Act funds to support afterschool and summer learning programs. You can click on each location [on the map](#) to gain ideas on how your community may invest these critical dollars to support young people.

5 Ways Cities Can Gear Up for Back-to-School Season

In this new guest [blog](#) for the [National League of Cities'](#) Cities Speak, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona outlines 5 ways that cities can support the children, youth and families in their communities this upcoming school year.



Campaign for Grade Level Reading Learning Tuesdays Webinar: Engage Every Student, Building Community Connections to Expand OST Access

In this GLR Learning Tuesdays webinar “[Engage Every Student, Building Community Connections to Expand OST Access](#),” we gain an early briefing on the Engage Every Student, a new federal initiative that aims to provide high-quality out-of-school time (OST) learning opportunities for every child

who wants to participate. Webinar speakers were representative of the U.S. Department of Education; the National Summer Learning Association; AASA, The School Superintendents Association; the National League of Cities; Beyond School Bells in Lincoln, Nebraska; the Alexandria, Virginia City Council; Foundations, Inc.; and Washington Elementary School District in Glendale, Arizona.



YOU Belong in STEM

In October 2022, Deputy Secretary Marten gave a [speech](#) previewing the YOU Belong in STEM initiative. This initiative aims to improve STEM education outcomes by advancing a sense of inclusion and belonging in STEM for all students and teachers. You can follow YOU Belong in STEM activities and updates at www.ed.gov/stem.

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Supplemental Funds can Support Comprehensive Afterschool Programs

The \$15 billion allocation of Child Care Supplemental funds, provided in the American Rescue Plan, creates an enormous opportunity to support afterschool and summer learning programs. While ARP Child Care Stabilization funds had to be obligated by September 2022, the Supplemental funds can be obligated through September 2023 and can be braided with other federal and state funding to provide afterschool and summer learning. Now is a great time to offer ideas to state childcare agencies on how to support families with school-age youth by using these funds for afterschool and summer learning programs. These funds are enormously flexible and intended to support increasing the supply and quality of childcare for all CCDF eligible families. To read more, click [here](#).



Strategic Use of Summer & Afterschool Set Asides Community of Practice

On September 20, 2022 the [National Comprehensive Center](#) hosted the final meeting of its inaugural [Strategic Use of Summer & Afterschool Set-Asides Community of Practice \(CoP\)](#). This CoP is comprised of state teams that are committed to demonstrating the lasting benefits of summer and afterschool stimulus funding for youth, families, and out-of-school time systems. Participating states in the inaugural cohort were: Florida, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Virginia, and Wyoming. State team leaders from state education agencies and state afterschool networks also convened a broader group of local education agencies and community partners to address problems of practice by identifying, testing, and reflecting on strategies to promote strategic and sustainable use of set aside funding. Access the final meeting recording [here](#). The Summer and Afterschool Community will recommence on November 16, 2022 and continue through September 2023.

"The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program I've attended since elementary school has meant so much to me. In this program, I've made new friends, gotten help with homework, and developed communication and leadership skills, especially through the newspaper club. I hope sharing my experience will help more students access afterschool programs, so they can have experiences as powerful and enriching as the ones I've had."

Kyla Anderson, 17
St. Louis, IL



THIS IS OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME
Engaging Every Student.

PUBLICATIONS



Afterschool: A Bipartisan Solution to Help Young People Thrive

A new brief by the [Afterschool Alliance](#), "[Afterschool: A Bipartisan Solution to Help Young People Thrive](#)," finds that an overwhelming majority of parents agree that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs and view afterschool programs as providing positive supports for children and youth.

This [brief](#) is a resource that can help you make the case for federal, state and local funding for afterschool by demonstrating the broad political support for programs.



Meeting the Moment: Cities Increase Investments in Young People to Support Pandemic Recovery and Beyond

This [report](#) and accompanying interactive data dashboard from The National

League of Cities' Education and Expanded Learning team outlines the results of their National Municipal Afterschool and Summer Learning Survey. The report reveals how local governments have been prioritizing afterschool and summer learning during the pandemic, and demonstrates the key role that cities, towns, and villages play in the pandemic recovery. The report includes ten action steps for city leaders to consider as they work to enhance their afterschool and summer programming.



Supporting Learning Acceleration with American Rescue Plan Funds

Check out this [U.S. Department of Education Fact Sheet](#) which shares examples of how states, districts and schools can use ARP ESSER funds to accelerate learning - through programming to address lost instructional time and the social, emotional, and other academic needs. Some examples include:

1. Provide students with tailored learning acceleration opportunities
2. Implement high-quality and effective tutoring
3. Use high-quality diagnostic and formative assessments to inform and personalize instruction
4. Integrate and prioritize the social, emotional, and academic needs of all students
5. Support the successful transitions of students from preschool to elementary school, elementary school to middle school, middle school to high school, and high school to postsecondary education and the workforce
6. Use high-quality out-of-school time (OST) learning experiences to support students' social, emotional, and academic needs.

Additionally, the [Department's COVID-19 Handbook](#) outlines evidence-based criteria for high-quality Out-of-School Time to best accelerate learning with criteria recommendations like engaging students in using experiential instruction that incorporates hands-on activities, project-based learning, enrichment and field trips.



Building, Sustaining and Improving: Using Federal Funds for Summer Learning and Afterschool

This [guide](#) by the Education Counsel and the Wallace Foundation can help district leaders, out-of-school time providers and intermediaries identify federal funding streams to support summer and afterschool learning.

Access to Afterschool Programs Remains a Challenge for Many Families

In this [brief](#) by the [Afterschool Alliance](#), a survey of approximately 1,500 parents

or guardians of school-age children, conducted May 22-June 28, 2022, provides a snapshot of the current afterschool program landscape during the pandemic. The brief documents that while children and families who are able to access afterschool programs report high levels of satisfaction, for every child in an afterschool program, there are four more who are waiting to get in.



SPOTLIGHTS



The City of Kalamazoo, MI has partnered with the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo to invest \$550,000 of the City's ARPA funds into a grant program for community-based organizations that serve youth. Some of the organizations funded through this program include:

The Boys & Girls Club, Community Healing Centers, Jennings Development Interplex, New Genesis, Inc., Fire Historical and Cultural Arts Collaborative, and the WMU Homer Strykler M.D. School of Medicine.

The Idaho State Department of Education awarded eight school districts and three community-based organizations \$1.8 million to support afterschool programs. Each grantee received between \$98,000 and \$175,000 to serve the needs of the local districts and CBO's and to reduce the achievement gaps of students. Three of the grantees were renewing districts, allowing them to continue serving the students they had been supporting.



The Des Moines School District is using a portion of their ESSER III funds to address learning loss/unfinished learning, which includes comprehensive afterschool programs, summer learning or summer enrichment, tutoring, and more.

The district released a survey to the public for feedback on how to invest federal pandemic relief funds, and afterschool and summer learning were listed as priority areas.



"The City of Memphis recognizes the important role afterschool and summer programs play in young people's success. This is why Memphis has invested over \$20 million of ARPA funds to provide positive, enriching experiences for youth after school hours."

The Honorable Jim Strickland, Mayor
Memphis, TN

THIS IS OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME
Engaging Every Student.

TAKE ACTION



Engage Every Student Webinar Series

Beginning in January 2023, Engage Every Student will launch a Webinar Series on a range of topics to support engagement in high-quality afterschool and summer learning opportunities for every student. We want to hear from you, as to what topics we should cover to support your efforts! Please take a few minutes to provide us with your feedback!

[Complete the Survey](#)

Join Us!



Become an **Ally** of Engage Every Student.



Make a **Pledge** to work toward Afterschool and Summer for all.

Out-of-School Time and Workforce and Career Pathways Examples

The Engage Every Student Initiative wants to know if and how your OST/Summer Learning Program is offering Workforce and Career Pathways opportunities. Please use the [form](#) below to share information on your programming. Examples of efforts can include apprenticeships, work-based learning, paid or unpaid internships, career navigation, career shadowing, targeted career mentoring, professional skills building, access to industry-based credentials, etc.



[Complete the Form](#)

How Are Afterschool Program Faring this Fall?



Afterschool and summer programs continue to rise to meet the needs of children and youth. Help us lift up the role of afterschool and summer programs by taking the Afterschool Alliance's short survey to help document how programs are faring and what supports are being provided to children and families. In addition to contributing to the knowledge base on afterschool during the pandemic, 50 respondents will win a \$50 cash prize. The [survey](#) is open until Sunday, November 20.

[Take the Survey](#)

RESOURCES



For additional resources from the U.S. Department of Education, click [here](#).



For additional resources from the Afterschool Alliance, click [here](#).



For additional resources from the National Summer Learning Association, click [here](#).



For additional resources from AASA, click [here](#).



For additional resources from the National



from the National League

Comprehensive Center
at Westat, click [here](#).

of Cities, click [here](#).

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