

We only use cookies that are necessary for this site to function to provide you with the best experience. The controller of this site may choose to place supplementary cookies to support additional functionality such as support analytics, and has an obligation to disclose these cookies. Learn more in our [Cookie Statement](#).



U.S. Department of Education

Engage Every Student Today: Issue No. 6

U.S. Department of Education sent this bulletin at 09/12/2023 02:05 PM EDT



TODAY | ISSUE NO. 6
September 12, 2023

EVERY STUDENT

A bulletin of the Engage Every Student initiative in partnership with:



The Engage Every Student Today Bulletin is a source of support for afterschool and summer learning programs, school districts, cities, and states as they respond to 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



Raise the Bar: 2023 Engage Every Student Summit

On July 13th, the U.S. Department of Education hosted the *Raise the Bar: Engage Every Student Summit* in Washington, D.C. The summit commemorated the One Year anniversary of the launch of the [initiative](#) celebrating the strides made nationally, as well as at the state and local levels to ensure that all students have opportunities to engage in high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs. Participants included youth, state and local school district leaders, state and city

elected officials, afterschool and summer learning program providers and advocates, technical assistance organizations and community-based organizations. View the [Summit Booklet](#) and videos of the [Opening Plenary](#) and [Closing Plenary](#). Check out and share the Year Two Call to Action Video below!



Watch and Share the Year Two Call to Action Video



Let's Engage Every Student!

Keep the Lights On Afterschool!

The nation's celebration of afterschool is coming! The 24th annual *Lights On Afterschool* will take place October 26, 2023, shining a light on the afterschool programs that are supporting young people's well-being and academic growth with fun, engaging learning opportunities. Thousands of afterschool programs will open their doors to the community to showcase. This year New York City's iconic Empire State Building will light up in honor of afterschool, along with landmarks around the country. Organized by the [Afterschool Alliance](#), the event brings attention to the benefits of afterschool and the great unmet demand for more. For every child in a program, 4 are waiting to get in.

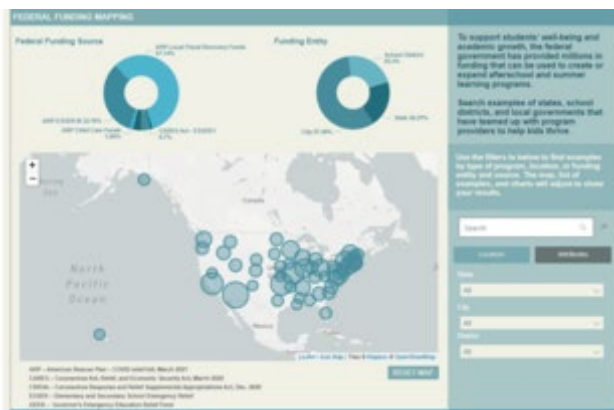
Take part by hosting an event or attending an event in your community. Holding a Lights On Afterschool event can help programs gain recognition, attract more support, and strengthen partnerships and relationships. Access your planning kit and learn more at www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm.



Supporting Student Reengagement

Chronic absenteeism has more than doubled in communities across the country since the onset of the pandemic. Afterschool programs are playing an essential role in addressing this issue. Check out this [resource page](#), created by the [National League of Cities](#), which contains information about student reengagement and city case studies illustrating the role that cities, schools, and afterschool programs can play in bringing students back into classrooms.

COVID Relief Funding Map



From experiential summer learning camps in Vermont where youth explored the outdoors to Missouri’s Columbia Public Schools investment of \$500,000 ESSER III funding to enhance student supports in existing afterschool programs run by community partners, afterschool and summer programs nationwide are being supported by relief funding.

The newly updated [COVID relief funding map](#) includes nearly 300 examples of state, districts, and localities investing

COVID relief funds to support students with afterschool and summer programs. **Are we missing a success story from your community or state? Get featured on the map by sharing your example on our [pledge form](#).**

New Podcast Discusses Youth Perspectives on Program Design

In March of 2023, The Wallace Foundation released a three-part podcast series titled [Beyond the Classroom](#), where youth research team members, out-of-school time (OST) practitioners, and field experts discuss the findings of a 2022 student-led study commissioned by The Wallace Foundation, “[Youth Perspectives on Designing Equitable Out-of-School-Time Programs](#).”

Key takeaways include:

- Minority students face significant barriers to participating in quality OST programs, and those barriers have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To stabilize the workforce and lift up youth workers, OST work must be reframed as a legitimate career.
- OST programs need to elevate youth voice and leadership.

Announcing the Summer and Afterschool Needs Assessment

Attention - School and Program Leaders! Are you looking to increase the quality of your programs?

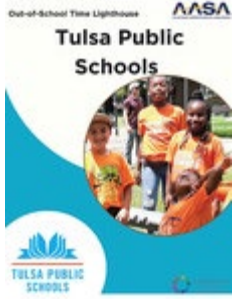
Engage Every Student Initiative has a new resource to help you. The newly released [Summer and Afterschool Needs Assessment](#) draws from the best evidence on what it takes to plan high-quality and afterschool programs and provides you with:



- A better understanding of your strengths and needs
- Access to targeted resources and guidance.

How Municipalities Can Support Summer Learning Programs

Check out the National League of Cities' recent [blog](#) which highlights the benefits of high-quality summer learning programs, and shares how city leaders can support these vital programs in their communities.



Out-of-school Time Profile: Tulsa Public Schools

Take a minute to read AASA's recent profile of Tulsa Public Schools in Oklahoma and their out-of-school time partners which serves as a model for quality afterschool and summer learning connections! Focusing on capacity building, quality improvement and year-round engagement, the community has seen success in braiding and sustaining anytime learning. View the profile [here](#).

UPDATE: U.S. Department of Education's Strategic Use of Summer & Afterschool Set Asides Community of Practice (CoP)

The final session of the [Strategic Use of Summer and Afterschool Set Asides Community of Practice](#) will take place on Thursday, September 14th at 2:30 pm ET. During this session, participating states will share stories of their impact. Be sure to check out this COP's website to explore helpful [out-of-school time External Resources](#).

"Powered by Youth Voice is a program that is allowing me to gain leadership skills and be more social than I was. They give me an environment that makes me feel heard, understood and listened too. Powered by Youth Voice and other programs like it give me and other youth a chance to help better ourselves and our communities for the better.

Regina N.
Every Hour Counts



THIS IS OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME
Engaging Every Student

SPOTLIGHTS

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) awarded \$18.1M to 68 schools and community partners under OSDE's High-Quality Afterschool and



Summer Learning Programs initiative. Funds were awarded through a competitive grant process. OSDE received nearly three times the number of applications typically submitted for expanded learning funding.

The City of Memphis will invest \$3 million of its ARPA funds into its local Boys and Girls Clubs (BGCA) every year for the next 3 years. The funds will be used to support the BGCA programs. Additionally, the City of Memphis is investing \$2.856 million of its ARPA funds into a summer youth employment, internship and apprenticeship program which will be run by Memphis's Office of Youth Services.



As of June 2023, Nye County School District in Pahrump, NV has invested nearly \$750,000 of ESSER pandemic relief dollars in afterschool and summer programs to support students. Funds cover transportation to programs, teacher and paraprofessional staff hires, and enhancement of existing SAFE 21st Century Community Learning Center programs.



"Afterschool programs are about kindness, compassion, social growth, character development, and academic support. These wonderful opportunities pour into kids to help them develop and mature. Because my school district is able to fully fund the afterschool program, kids get to participate in activities in which some kids might not have the means to on their own. Clubs such as taekwondo, art, drama, sewing, culture and my favorite - tennis. I have experienced first-hand what afterschool can do and the benefit to kids, which is why afterschool programs should be funded and available to every kid across this nation."

Spencer H.
Afterschool Alliance



THIS IS OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME
Engaging Every Student

PUBLICATIONS

New Engage Every Student Resource: Tip Sheets

Engage Every Student is excited to announce the launch of a series of *Tip Sheets*. This new resource was designed for state, cities, district, afterschool, and summer learning program leaders. Tips Sheets are available on the Engage Every Student [website](#) on an array of topics including:

- Collaborating with Municipal Officials to Support Afterschool and Summer Learning
- Research and Out-of-School Time Learning
- Responding to ARP ESSER Myths
- Sharing Your Story Through Stakeholder Visits.



American Rescue Plan Funds Support Youth with Special Needs and Disabilities

More than 450 examples have been added to the Afterschool and Summer Learning Investments [map](#), illuminating how cities, states, and school districts use pandemic relief funds to support afterschool and summer learning. The map now also highlights how funds are supporting youth with special needs or disabilities.

The most recent America After 3PM report revealed that afterschool programs are helping youth with special needs or disabilities build peer connections and increase their confidence while helping their parents build skills and connect to community resources. Read the [full brief](#) to learn more.

Literacy Leads, Content Follows, Students Advance: Advice for Grades 9-12 Literacy Leaders

Check out this series of guides created by the National Comprehensive Center at Westat for educators—principals, coaches, literacy specialists, department heads—who lead and are responsible for literacy efforts in their schools. The interactive resource includes strategies for literacy instruction to assist educators when learning has been interrupted. It offers advice about priorities for helping teachers adapt their approaches to new situations to address lost learning time. Links to evidence-based resources are provided throughout the text. Access the resource [here](#).

"From my first steps through the blue doors at the Jelleff Recreation Center Boys & Girls Clubs, I was enveloped in a whirlwind of activities like Torch Club, a program that raises and equips community leaders. In 4th grade, I'd wait the whole school day for my Clubs cooking classes. All of us packed in this tiny little kitchen, gloves on and safety knives at the ready. Mushroom barley soup? Defeated. Cranberry oatmeal cookies, conquered. Teamwork? mastered. But the experience didn't end when we cleaned up our pots and pans, but at 10 years old I was asked to speak to the DC City Council about expanding grant funding for this program. This experience and many others like it, put me on track to attend Ohio State university to study public policy, with zero student loan debt.

Asha H.-R.
Boys & Girls Clubs of America



THIS IS OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME
Engaging Every Student

TAKE ACTION



Next Engage Every Student Webinar: Parent and Family Engagement

Parent and family engagement is a critical component of high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs. As a result, this webinar will highlight the U.S. Department of Education's priorities pertaining to parent and family engagement and spotlights the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center Program's emphasis on

ensuring that families of students served have opportunities for active and meaningful engagement. Additionally, the webinar will feature parent and family engagement strategies of local and statewide afterschool and summer learning programs. Space is limited.

[Register for the Webinar](#)

Engage Every Student Office Hours

Office Hours are held on the first Friday of every month at 1:00 pm ET. Office Hours provides an opportunity for attendees to receive technical assistance related to expanding access to afterschool and summer learning programs from the initiative partner organizations. Upcoming Office Hours:



- **October:** Friday, October 6, 2023
- **November:** Friday, November 3, 2023

[Register for October Office Hours](#)

[Register for November Office Hours](#)

November 2023 Engage Every Student Webinar: Afterschool in Native American and Tribal Communities: Perspectives, Programs & Practices

This webinar will feature an in-depth conversation with afterschool and summer providers who are working to meet the needs of Native American and Indigenous youth and families. Attendees will learn about Native American families' perspectives on afterschool programs, from what families are looking for to barriers to participation and will better understand potential areas of growth to help the afterschool field reach more Native American young people. Space is limited.



[Register for the Webinar](#)

Join Us!



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



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



"For the last 9 years, I've attended Camp Fiver in upstate New York. Fiver has taught me how to be Trustworthy, Self-confident Environmentalist, Respectful, Responsible, Peacemaker, Community builder, Creative, Compassionate, Learner, and Courageous. What I love about this camp is the community. The exposure to the outdoors. And it's a safe place to try and experience new things. I plan to keep working in my trade, auto body collision repair after high school."

Jordan L.
National Summer Learning Association



THIS IS OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME
Engaging Every Student

RESOURCES



For additional resources from the U.S.



For additional resources from the Afterschool



For additional resources from the National

Department of
Education, click [here](#).



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

Alliance, click [here](#).



For additional resources
from the National
Comprehensive Center
at Westat, click [here](#).

Summer Learning
Association, click [here](#).



For additional resources
from the National League
of Cities, click [here](#).

Legal Disclaimer: For the reader's convenience, this bulletin contains examples and information from outside organizations, including hyperlinks and URLs. Inclusion does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education of any outside organization, or the resources or services offered, or the views expressed.



Subscribe to updates from U.S. Department of Education

Email Address

e.g. name@example.com

Share Bulletin



POWERED BY



[Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookie Statement](#) | [Help](#)