



A POLICY AGENDA TO ACHIEVE AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL IN NEW YORK STATE

Talking Points for Discussions with State Policymakers

- ❖ **Afterschool programs help our children succeed.** Study after study has shown that afterschool programs are good for students and families. Afterschool programs keep kids safe and out of trouble. And children in afterschool programs have better school attendance, are less likely to drop out, and have higher academic achievement.
 - » *Tell a story about how your afterschool program has made a difference for a student or students, for working families or for the community in reducing crime, improving behavior or school performance.*

- ❖ **We need more investment to expand the availability of afterschool programs.** Across New York State there is far more demand than existing programs can serve. At least 600,000 children in the state are alone and unsupervised after school, while thousands more families would take advantage of quality afterschool programs if they were available.

- ❖ **We also need better coordination of state policies and funding.** The current system of policies and funding makes it hard to run programs efficiently. Programs should be able to spend more time and money on delivering high quality activities and staff and less on paperwork, fundraising and fighting bureaucratic barriers.
 - » *Give one example of a challenge you've encountered around an issue such as:*
 - *Complying with regulations from multiple agencies*
 - *Securing training for staff*
 - *Coordinating with the school day*
 - *Providing transportation for students*

- ❖ **Stronger leadership on afterschool at the state level is essential to develop a more comprehensive approach to policy and funding.**
 - We need a senior official directly responsible to the Governor designated to lead afterschool system improvement.
 - We need state leaders to establish an Afterschool Task Force or other state-level leadership body, with representation from all major stakeholders, to establish a common vision for the state's afterschool system, and create the planning and policymaking mechanisms needed to achieve it.

**For more information contact New York State Afterschool Network (NYSAN)
1440 Broadway, 16th floor • New York, NY 10018 • (646) 943-8670 • www.nysan.org**