



NEWS RELEASE
January 21, 2014

CONTACT: [Luci Manning](#)
202/371-1999

Nation's Leading Afterschool Advocate Lauds Gov. Cuomo's Education Priorities

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

"Governor Cuomo's announcement this afternoon is welcome news for afterschool programs across New York, and the children, working families and schools that rely on them. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families by relieving parents of worries about whether their children are safe, supervised, and engaged in enriching, educational activities after the school day ends. But in recent years, in New York and across the country, these programs have suffered due to budget cuts and reductions in private contributions.

The need for afterschool programs remains huge. According to the Afterschool Alliance's [America After 3 PM study](#), 779,000 students in New York are on their own after school. The parents of 1.1 million New York kids say their children would participate in an afterschool program if one were available. Too often, it hasn't been – but Governor Cuomo aims to change that with the initiative he announced today.

Like the vast majority of parents, educators and the public, Governor Cuomo made clear that he recognizes that afterschool programs are essential to giving our children the start they deserve. Combined with his new pre-K initiative, he has introduced a powerful package of supports for children and families. We commend his priorities, which will benefit New York families immeasurably."

#

More information on afterschool in New York is available [here](#).

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.