



NEWS RELEASE

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More Parents Report Enrolling Children in Summer Learning

Sneak Peek at Forthcoming Afterschool Study

Washington, DC — A sneak peek at data from a massive nationwide survey to be released this fall finds overwhelming support among parents for public funding of summer learning programs, and a significant increase in the percentage of families reporting children participating in such programs. The new data are from the forthcoming *America After 3PM, 2014* report, set to be released this October by the Afterschool Alliance.

The new data show that, of the families surveyed:

- Eighty-six percent of parents indicate support for public funding for summer learning programs, a statistically significant increase of three percentage points over the already very strong support registered in the 2009 edition of *America After 3PM*. Meanwhile, fewer than one in 10 parents oppose public funding.
- Thirty-three percent of families report having at least one child who participated in a summer learning program last summer, up from the 25 percent of families reporting at least one child participating when the survey was last conducted in 2009.
- Thirteen percent of families report that summer learning programs were available to them at no cost. However, the vast majority of parents pay for their children's participation, and their average weekly per-child cost for a summer learning program is \$250. Given that the median weekly income in 2013 was \$776, the weekly cost is high enough to put the programs out of the reach of many children and families.



More than half of families - 51% - surveyed in spring 2014 say they want their children to participate in a summer learning program this summer.

“In many communities, afterschool programs morph into summer learning programs at the end of the school year,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant in releasing the data. “That helps give the programs both an infrastructure and a solid pedagogical grounding as they work to combat summer learning loss, so that students can hit the ground running when school resumes in the fall. It is

striking that support for public funding of summer learning programs remains sky-high, even growing slightly since 2009. That shows what high priority parents give summer learning, even in tough economic times. We will continue reminding policymakers about that vigorous support, as we encourage them to provide more resources for these essential programs.”

More information about the new data is available at

http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Summer_Learning_Pager_2014.pdf.

The 2014 *America After 3PM* research and forthcoming report are funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Wallace Foundation and the Noyce Foundation, with additional support from the Heinz Endowments, Samueli Foundation and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. In October, the full report on afterschool programs, including details on how participation and demand for afterschool vary among income levels, ethnicity, state of residence and more will be available. In addition, for the first time ever, data on STEM, as well as detailed information on physical activity, in afterschool will be included in the *America After 3PM* report.

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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.