



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **Leading Afterschool Advocacy Group Praises Governor Blunt's Strong Support for Afterschool Programs**

### ***Governor Asks \$1 Million for Afterschool Programs Teaching Math, Science***

WASHINGTON, DC – The nation's leading afterschool advocacy group today offered high praise for Missouri Governor Matt Blunt, who proposed \$1 million to expand afterschool programs as part of a \$4 million investment in education programs that promote math, engineering, technology and science for Missouri's youth.

“We are delighted that Governor Blunt has made support for afterschool programs a priority, and that he recognizes that quality programs can play a crucial role in expanding and reinforcing math and science learning,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “We commend Governor Blunt for this action, and urge state lawmakers to quickly adopt his afterschool funding proposal. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families – but we don't have nearly enough quality afterschool programs in the U.S. today. Investments in afterschool programs are investments in our future.”

The funding Governor Blunt proposes would support expansion of programs that feature math and science study or health promotion. The proposal was developed by the Missouri Afterschool Network and submitted to the Governor at his request. The plan highlights afterschool as important because it provides more time for students to study math and science than is possible during the regular school day.

During his announcement, the Governor lauded afterschool programs for providing a safe haven for children at the end of the school day. “The hours between three in the afternoon and six in the evening are the most dangerous for Missouri kids. Afterschool programs help to keep these kids in a safe environment,” Governor Blunt said.

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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 by 2010. More information is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*