



Media Advisory
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Experts to Brief Congress Tuesday on How Afterschool and Summer Programs Are Supporting Learning Through the Pandemic and Are Vital to Recovery

Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney to Join Afterschool Leaders from MN and OK, Youth from WA at Briefing that Kicks Off Week of Afterschool Events

As part of a week of information sharing, planning and advocacy about the ways afterschool and summer learning programs are supporting students and families during the pandemic and are poised to support recovery, the Afterschool Alliance will host a **virtual congressional briefing on Tuesday, May 26 at 2 pm ET**. The briefing, which is open to the media, will feature experts on education, afterschool, and economic development as well as a distinguished education researcher discussing the social, emotional and academic support students need and the practical help their families are counting on from afterschool and summer programs.

The afterschool field is playing a key role during the pandemic, supporting students and families in a variety of ways while working to help youth emerge from this difficult time of isolation and loss as strong, resilient, and hopeful as possible. Speakers at the congressional briefing Tuesday at 2 pm:

- Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance
- Gerard Robinson, Vice President for Education, Advanced Studies in Culture Foundation
- Nicole Hernandez, Youth Development Director at Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota
- Mila Flowers, student attending 21st Century Community Learning Center, Walla Walla, WA
- Kim Templeman, Principal, Central Oak Elementary School, Oklahoma City, OK
- Dr. Deb Moroney, Managing Director, American Institutes for Research
- Mayor Levar Stoney, Richmond, Virginia

Right now, many afterschool programs are serving children of essential workers and providing virtual programming, meals and other family supports, and remote check-ins to help keep youth engaged and connected. As the country re-opens, afterschool and summer learning programs are crucial to helping parents return to work; helping students catch up, re-connect and re-engage; and directing services to those most severely harmed by the pandemic.

The congressional briefing is part of a week of activities that will culminate in the first-ever Virtual Town Hall Meeting on Afterschool, to be held on Thursday, May 28 at 6 pm ET.

Register for Tuesday's congressional briefing here: <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/webinars.cfm?ID=C3FA0C0F-5056-A82E-7A8A11D33B58D059> or simply join it Tuesday at 2 pm ET here: <https://afterschoolalliance.adobeconnect.com/a1043045437/hillbriefing/>

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