



MEDIA ADVISORY  
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## **Nation Needs More Afterschool Programs for Older Youth**

*Briefing Will Explore How Afterschool Partnerships Support Student Success*

What happens to older youth when they have nowhere to go after the school bell rings? From 3 to 6 PM, while the juvenile crime rate is tripling, youth in afterschool programs are safe, supervised and getting an academic boost. But just 500,000 of the 8.4 million students in afterschool programs are in grades 9 – 12, and only five percent of 21st Century Community Learning Centers exclusively target high school students. A household survey released by the Afterschool Alliance last fall, sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, found that almost four million high school students would participate in afterschool programs if they were available.

To explore how afterschool programs can better serve older youth, the Afterschool Alliance will hold a congressional briefing on before school, afterschool and summer programs for older youth. The event is being held in conjunction with Senators Blanche Lincoln and Evan Bayh at:

**2 PM on Wednesday, February 24  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room G-11**

**With**

Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance  
Janice Hastings, Vice President, PlusTime NH, Concord, New Hampshire  
Jasen Kelly, Director, Boys and Girls Club of Saline County, Benton, Arkansas  
Michael Funk, Founder and Director, Sunset Beacon Center, San Francisco, California

Senators Lincoln and Bayh both co-sponsor the ASPIRE Act, which would provide a funding stream for afterschool programs serving older youth. Quality afterschool programs aimed at this age group focus on academics and can include credit recovery or attainment as well as hands-on learning opportunities such as internships and apprenticeships that keep students engaged in school and help them develop skills for the workforce.

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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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*