



NEWS RELEASE
July 6, 2004

CONTACT: Gretchen Wright
202/371-1999

Afterschool Alliance Lauds National PTA Resolution

Washington, DC -- Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Judy Y. Samelson today applauded the National PTA for adopting a strong pro-afterschool resolution at its just-completed annual convention. The resolution, adopted at the National PTA's June 24 – 26 convention in Anaheim, California, calls on federal, state and local government to “make an increased investment in funding quality after-school programs, accessible to all children.”

“This is an important moment in the afterschool movement,” Samelson said. “The National PTA has issued a clarion call for increased resources for afterschool, and urged government at all levels to grow afterschool programs nationwide. The vast majority of America’s children do not have access to afterschool programs. Recent research for the Afterschool Alliance found that the parents of more than 15 million children want but do not have access to an afterschool program for their children. That’s more than twice the number of children who are actually in afterschool programs today. So we’re nowhere near meeting the very real and pressing demand for afterschool programs across the country.”

America After 3 PM: A Household Survey on Afterschool in America is the most in-depth study ever to explore how America’s children spend their afternoons. Released in May, it found that just 6.5 million children are in afterschool programs, while the parents of another 15.3 million children say their children would participate if an afterschool program were available. Need is especially high for middle school children. Just six percent of middle schoolers are in afterschool programs, while another 34 percent are unsupervised in the afternoons. *America After 3 PM* was funded by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. GE Consumer Finance donated the team of experts who analyzed the data. Rothstein-Tauber-Directions for Decisions (RTi-DFD) helped with survey design, data collection and data weighting procedures.

In May, the National PTA joined with the Afterschool Alliance in unveiling *Afterschool for All: Project 2010*, a new united national voice in support of afterschool programs. Supported in part by the Open Society Institute, this unprecedented new initiative already has brought together almost 250 powerful groups and national leaders representing more than 20 million Americans who believe that all children and youth should have access to high-quality, safe and enriching afterschool programs by the year 2010.

more

Add One

“The National PTA is an invaluable ally in the effort to increase opportunities for children in the hours immediately following the regular school day,” Samelson continued. “The National PTA’s more than six million members will be a powerful force in communities, and with lawmakers at all levels. We look forward to working even more closely with them.”

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities working to ensure that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by 2010. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org. Information about the National PTA and its resolution is available at www.pta.org. Information about America After 3 PM is at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/press_room.cfm.

#