



MEDIA ALERT
September 8, 2006

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Experts to Discuss How Afterschool Programs Help Kids Gain Math & Science Skills

The United States is in danger of losing its competitive edge in the world economy because our students are not making the gains in math, science, technology and engineering that are being realized in other industrialized countries. Afterschool programs can help to narrow that gap, but only 6.5 million children attend programs, while 14.3 million take care of themselves after the school day ends.

Leading afterschool providers and experts will discuss how afterschool programs are improving students' attitudes toward and understanding of science and math disciplines, and the need to expand afterschool programs at a special briefing for congressional staff and journalists from:

2:30 to 4 PM, Wednesday, September 13

U.S. Capitol, Room HC-6

Washington, DC

FEATURING

Eric Jolly, Science Museum of Minnesota

Lucy Friedman, The After-School Corporation (New York City)

Amy Heit, Girls Inc. of Washington County, Maryland

Moderator: Jodi Grant, Afterschool Alliance

The session will include a demonstration of hands-on science experiments that are being used in afterschool programs.

The session is sponsored by the Coalition for Science After School, the Afterschool Alliance, the National Science Teachers Association and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in conjunction with the Senate and House Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education Caucuses and the Senate and House Afterschool Caucuses.

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.

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