



For Immediate Release
May 2, 2025

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President Trump: Eliminating Dedicated Funding for Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs Would Cause Massive Harm to Students, Families, Our Workforce, and Our Economy

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

"The [FY26 budget](#) the Trump administration proposed today appears to eliminate dedicated funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), the chief federal funding stream for afterschool and summer learning programs. That would be a devastating move that would likely result in the closure of a significant number of afterschool and summer learning programs. That, in turn, would mean more children and youth unsupervised and at risk each afternoon, more academic failures and dropouts, more hungry kids, more chronic absenteeism, more parents forced out of their jobs, and a less STEM-ready and successful workforce in the future.

Coupled with the \$400 million in cuts to AmeriCorps announced last week and the pending elimination of the U.S. Department of Education, as well as proposed cuts to STEM education and other youth development supports, eliminating 21st CCLC would have dire consequences.

We will mobilize the afterschool community and the millions of parents and families it supports to convince Congress to resist the administration's short-sighted, irresponsible proposal and instead continue funding afterschool and summer learning programs, which have a powerful track record of keeping kids safe, inspiring them to learn, and giving working families peace of mind. A [public opinion survey](#) released in February found that 87% of voters, including those in rural, suburban and urban communities, agree that afterschool programs are 'an absolute necessity.'

When we invest in afterschool and summer learning through 21st CCLC, we are investing in our kids, their future, and our country's success."

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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.