

**PRESS RELEASE
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NYSAN Praises City Budget, Applauds Commitment to Out-of-School Time and Youth Programs

New York City's investment in OST is now second only to the State of California

New York City – Today marks the start of the new fiscal year for New York City, and the New York State Afterschool Network (NYSAN) joins afterschool and summer programs across New York City in celebrating the remarkable commitment to youth programming the Mayor and City Council have made for this year. New York City will invest \$341.4 million in its afterschool and summer youth programs, including \$145 million to open 271 new middle school Out-of-School Time (OST) programs across the city. Overall, 172,000 students will have opportunities to learn and grow through these programs this year.

“New York City’s investment in afterschool and summer programming is setting a new bar for New York State and for the rest of the country. The Mayor and the City Council’s recognition of the critical need for these program—to reduce costs and anxiety for working parents, to close the opportunity gap for low-income students, to increase youth safety, and to encourage our next generation of creative leaders—will hopefully inspire many communities to follow their lead,” said Nora Niedzielski-Eichner, Executive Director, NYSAN.

In addition to fully supporting the \$145 million in new funding for middle school OST programs championed by Mayor Bill de Blasio, the City Council also included several other important investments in youth in the final budget. These included \$17.5 million to allow 22,000 students to attend enrichment programs this summer, an increase of \$2.1 million for the Cultural After School Adventure (CASA) program, and funding for an additional 10,700 summer jobs this year through the Summer Youth Employment Program.

“We are excited about the example that this tremendous investment sets for the rest of the state,” said Niedzielski-Eichner. “We know that students all across New York are eager for these kind of additional learning opportunities and that many families are deeply in need of safe, affordable, engaging places to send their children between the end of the school day and the end of the work day. We hope that New York State will look to New York City as a model for expanding afterschool and summer programs.”

While cities and states across the country are investing in afterschool and summer programs, this year's budget puts New York City in a category almost by itself. The only place in the United States investing more in afterschool programming is the State of California, where a ballot proposition established an afterschool funding stream that provided \$541 million for programs in the 2013-14 school year.

Moreover, under Mayor de Blasio, the Department of Youth and Community Development and the Department of Education have made a strong commitment to quality. Research shows that high-quality programs have a far greater impact on student outcomes. NYSAN applauds the investment the budget makes in quality supports and sufficient funding per student to support a high-quality program, as well as the work that DYCD and DOE have done to ensure that the site selection process for the new middle school programs prioritizes high-quality programming.

About NYSAN

The New York State Afterschool Network (NYSAN) is a public-private partnership dedicated to promoting young people's safety, learning, and healthy development by increasing the quality and availability of programs available outside the traditional classroom.

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