

TOP 10 REASONS

You Should Support Expanded Learning Opportunities

National, State, and Local leaders agree that students need more learning time in safe, enriching expanded learning.

- 1 “In today's knowledge economy, America's standard school day and year are simply too short to provide our students with the time and resources they need to earn a well-rounded, world-class education. Afterschool programs can provide a safe and engaging place where children can be productive after the school day ends.” — Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education, 2012
- 2 “The advantages of more education are clear...We need more learning time...if we really are serious about improving education.” — Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, 2013
- 3 “The extended learning time in after-school programs help our students make positive gains in their academic performance, benefit from diverse programs that enrich learning, improve communication skills with adults, decrease behavioral problems, and it offers young people alternatives to trouble on the streets.” — New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, 2013

Quality childcare in New York is not affordable for working families.

- 4 In New York, there are 452,565 single working mothers with children under age 18. Average annual fees for before/afterschool care for a school-age child are the highest in the country at \$11,690. This comes out to 45.2% of the median income for a single mother family in the state. —Child Care Aware of America, 2013

Meanwhile, quality expanded learning opportunities help close the opportunity gap and the achievement gap for students lucky enough to participate.

- 5 “By the time they reach 6th grade, middle class kids have likely spent 6,000 more hours learning than kids born into poverty...It begins with reading at home and family excursions to zoos and museums...The least advantaged kids are the most likely to miss out on pre-school, high quality after-school, extra-curriculars and summer learning.” — Lucy Friedman, TASC, 2013
- 6 Recent research from Deborah Lowe Vandell demonstrates that more consistent time spent in afterschool activities during the elementary school years is linked to closing the gap in math achievement at grade 5. “As I see it today, we have before us unprecedented opportunities to ensure all expanded learning programs make a difference for children and youth.” — Deborah Lowe Vandell, University of California, Irvine, 2013

Programs provide hands-on learning opportunities that assist youth in realizing their potential for learning and support students in building grit, perseverance, and tenacity, which is why afterschool and summer programs are seen as key to college and career readiness and a constitutional right as part of a sound basic education in New York.

- 7 “Non-school learning settings demonstrate how powerful the principles of learning can be. Evidence shows that...young people consistently experience markedly higher levels of motivation and concentration than during school work or *any other* context of their lives. As a result, youth in these settings absorb the knowledge, skills, and practices of the field. They develop essential career and life skills: for critical thinking, responsibility, teamwork, strategic thinking, and emotional skills. Youth in these settings also engage in vital identity work. They acquire knowledge, relationships, and a stronger sense of self that open pathways toward vocations and participation in adult society. It is no wonder...that universities repeatedly find that participation in non-school learning settings is a valuable predictor of a young person's future trajectory.” — Robert Halpern, Paul Heckman, & Reed Larson, 2012
- 8 “Two factors that our research suggested were important [to promote grit, perseverance, and tenacity] were that students have opportunities to take on worthwhile long-term goals and that they have a rigorous and supportive place to pursue them. Many informal learning settings do exactly this—whether the goal is to do something like a complex programming project, make a film, get into college, or a wide variety of others. When students have the opportunities to take on and accomplish big goals, not only do they get the satisfaction of the achievement, they also take with them the knowledge that they can do it.” — Nikki Shechtman, Ph.D., 2014
- 9 “The evidence base strongly supports deploying afterschool and summer programs and partnerships to develop students' readiness skills for enrolling in post-secondary education and for joining the workforce.” — Betsy Brand, American Youth Policy Forum, 2013
- 10 Constitutional requirements for providing all students in New York State the opportunity for a “sound basic education” include “sufficient and appropriate additional instruction during the regular school day or extended day, as well as through afterschool and/or Saturday, extended year or summer programs to improve the performance of all students failing to achieve grade-level performance in English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies,” and “sufficient extracurricular activities, including, but not limited to, sports, student government, debate, and/or school newspapers to provide students an opportunity to acquire the character traits and social skills needed to function productively as civic participants.” — Michael Rebell and The Campaign for Educational Equity, 2012