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156 Organizations Urge the Governor and Legislature to Keep the \$35 Million Empire State After-School Program in the Final State Budget

The New York State Network for Youth Success announced today that they are delivering a letter to Governor Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Heastie, and Senate Majority Leader Flanagan urging leaders to include the \$35 million Empire State After-School Program in the final state budget.

The letter has the support of 156 organizations and companies including NYSUT, Alliance of NYS YMCA's, the Police Conference of New York, numerous Boys and Girls Clubs from across the state, school district Superintendents, the Mayor of Hudson, and program providers from across the state.

Over 550 individuals, including parents, teachers, and program staff, also signed on in support of the \$35 million Empire State After-School proposal.

If included in the final budget, 22,000 students in New York State will gain access to high quality afterschool programs through the Empire State After-School Program.

In addition to adding 22,000 new afterschool spots for youth across New York State, the Empire State After-School program would also create over 2,000 new jobs for front line staff in the afterschool programs.

“We thank the Assembly and Senate for including a critical restoration to the Advantage After School Program in their budget bills,” said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the New York State Network for Youth Success. “However, this restoration will only maintain the current number of students served. With President Trump proposing to eliminate federal funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, it is more important than ever that New York lead the way in expanding access to high-quality afterschool programs. Funding for the Empire State After-School Program must be included in the final budget.”

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