

January 2, 2017

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Afterschool Programs Counting on NYS Legislators to Recognize the *Power of 3:00* as Legislative Session Begins January 3

\$2.5 Million Must Be Restored to Advantage After School in FY18-19 State Budget to Prevent Students from Losing Access to Afterschool Programs

Albany, NY – The New York State Network for Youth Success today called on State Legislators to recognize the *Power of 3:00* and work to **restore \$2.5 million cut from the Advantage After School Program** in last year's budget. More than 1800 students across New York are at risk of losing access to afterschool programs beginning next school year if this funding is not included in the FY18-19 State Budget.

While the new **Empire State After-School Program** will fund afterschool opportunities in 16 high-poverty cities across the state, many high-needs communities are not eligible for this funding. Governor Cuomo has wisely proposed expanding the Empire State After-School Program to help suppress gang recruitment on Long Island. But many **Advantage After School Program** sites, which are currently keeping kids safe and engaged in low-income communities throughout the state, are at risk.

Research shows that violent juvenile crime is far more likely between the hours of 3-6 pm, when children are also most likely to be victims of crime. Educators have recognized that this same timeframe can be an opportunity to lift children up with afterschool programs that exhibit the *Power of 3:00*. These successful programs:

1. Keep families working.
2. Support academic and social/emotional development.
3. Provide a safe environment during the peak hours of juvenile crime.

"The time between 3-6 pm can be a risk or an opportunity for children," said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the New York State Network for Youth Success. "Reducing funding for the Advantage After School Program will put kids at risk and force parents to make difficult decisions about continuing to work. We trust that the Governor and our State Legislators will recognize the *Power of 3:00* and restore funding for the Advantage After School Program during this legislative session."

More information about how afterschool programs keep youth safe and reduce negative behaviors can be found at <http://networkforyouthsuccess.org/policy/benefits/>

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About The New York State Network for Youth Success

The New York State Network for Youth Success is dedicated to building a youth-serving system that increases the quality and availability of afterschool and expanded learning programs. The Network for Youth Success supports all programs that promote young people's intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development outside the traditional school day. These programs include those that serve youth in kindergarten through 12th grade, take place in schools and/or in community-based settings, and occur before and after school, during weekends, holidays, and summer breaks, or during the school day through partnerships with community organizations.

The Network for Youth Success convenes partners and coordinates them around a common agenda focused on partnership development, policy development, and capacity building. The network connects practice with policy across a broad range of state, regional, and local partners that represent the afterschool, expanded learning, community schools, and youth development fields broadly.