



Contact: Chris Neitzey

[410-330-0988](tel:410-330-0988)

[chris@networkforyouthsuccess.org](mailto:chris@networkforyouthsuccess.org)

### **State Legislators Restore Funding for Advantage After School in Final NYS Budget**

Advantage After School Programs Preserved and Empire State After-School Programs Expanded

Albany, NY—The NYS Network for Youth Success lauded the New York State Legislature for restoring funding to the **Advantage After School** program. Advantage After School was restored to \$22.3 million in the final FY 2018-19 New York State Budget, which was passed March 30. The Legislature’s crucial addition to the Executive Budget Proposal will ensure continued programming for the 3,600 children in underserved communities across the state who were at risk if the program wasn't fully restored.

Funding for the **Empire State After-School** program was increased by \$10 million in the State Budget. This increase will expand afterschool programming to 6,250 more students in targeted areas, including those with high rates of student homelessness and child poverty.

Senator Jim Tedisco, Assemblymember Ellen Jaffee, and Assemblymember Pat Fahy led legislative efforts to securing funding for afterschool programs for New York’s children and families. Through their work, Advantage After School funding was fully restored to its FY 2016-17 funding level, an increase of \$2.5 million over last year's budget.

Advantage After School currently supports 177 programs across New York State. These programs provide safe, affordable afterschool opportunities that benefit students, families and employers. Participants receive supervised academic and developmental support during the time when school has ended but most parents are still working - the peak hours of juvenile crime. Afterschool programs help children succeed and have been shown to reduce the achievement gap between high and low-income students.

“New York’s renewed commitment to Advantage After School ensures that thousands of students will have access to continued afterschool care,” said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the New York State Network for Youth Success. “High quality afterschool programs support improved academic performance, keep students safe and reduce negative behaviors. This is a critical investment in student success and the workforce of tomorrow.”

#

### **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.

April 2, 2018

#### **Capital Region**

415 River Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Troy, NY 12180  
518-694-0660

#### **NYC**

81 Prospect Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
646-943-8671

#### **Empower Youth Success**

[www.NetworkForYouthSuccess.org](http://www.NetworkForYouthSuccess.org)