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Afterschool Advocates Urge Rate Increase in Letter to Governor Cuomo

Additional Funding Needed to Cover Increase in Minimum Wage and Maintain Advantage After School Program

Albany NY – More than 250 afterschool advocates signed a letter to Governor Cuomo urging a per student rate increase for the Advantage After School program. The increase is necessary to cover the rising cost of salaries due to new minimum wage laws and bring the per student rate into alignment with actual program costs.

The Advantage After School program serves more than 16,000 students in underserved communities at a rate of \$1,375 per student. This is considerably less than the actual cost of afterschool programming – which ranges from approximately \$3,000 per student in Buffalo to \$6,000 in New York City. That cost will increase considerably because of the impact of New York’s new minimum wage increases on salaries, which make up the largest part of afterschool program budgets.

“This increase is essential to maintain current programs for students and pay staff living wages,” said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the New York State Network for Youth Success. “With more than 1.1 million students still in need of afterschool care in New York, we cannot afford to reduce programming.”

The advocates requested \$37.12 million for the Advantage After School program in the 2019-20 New York State Budget. This would cover expected increases in minimum wage costs and raise the per student rate to \$2,320 – still considerably less than actual program costs.

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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.

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