

For Immediate Release

September 11, 2017

Contact: Kelly Sturgis

518-486-8556

kelly@networkforyouthsuccess.org

Survey Shows Strong Support for Afterschool Programs

Albany NY – As students go back to school and parents around the country are confronted with where their children will go when the school day ends at 3:00 PM, a new poll from by Phi Delta Kappa International (PDK) shows widespread support for afterschool programs.

According to the [PDK poll](#), nine of 10 New Yorkers think public schools should provide afterschool services for students who do not have access to such services elsewhere. Eighty two percent said they feel "strongly" that such services should be provided.

This year marks the 49th year that PDK has conducted an annual Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools, which reports findings at a national level. It is the longest continuously running survey of American attitudes toward public education.

This year, in addition to its annual national survey, PDK conducted companion surveys in two states - New York and Georgia. Via telephone, pollsters questioned 628 randomly selected New York adults, including 354 parents of public school students, in May and June of 2017.

"Afterschool programs work, they help bridge the achievement gap and provide a safe environment for some of our most vulnerable youth," said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the New York State Network for Youth Success. "The PDK poll shows that parents in New York and across the country clearly understand the value of high-quality afterschool programs. This report further underscores the need to maintain public funding for afterschool programs, especially in light of the President's budget proposal to eliminate all funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Center program that helps fund afterschool and summer programs in disadvantaged communities around the country and would impact 1.6 million youth nationwide and nearly 60,000 in New York."

"Afterschool programs are critical to fostering student development and achievement through activities that complement classroom learning, and they are also indispensable for parents who need a safe and educational alternative to costly child care," said Congresswoman Lowey. "As Co-Chair of the Congressional Afterschool Caucus, I am committed to making sure that afterschool programs have the resources needed to support and empower American families."

Some notable findings in New York:

New Yorkers, like Americans overall, express broad support for afterschool programs.

Further, 76% say schools are justified in seeking additional public funds to pay for these services. Just 18% say they are not justified. (The rest, 6%, have no opinion.)

The survey has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 5.5 percentage points for all respondents and 7 percentage points for parents of public school students. For more information, go to <http://pdkintl.org>.

#

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.