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\$37 Million Needed to Maintain Advantage After School Program in New York
State Budget Must Provide Increased Funds to Maintain Services for 16,000 Students

Albany, NY – The New York State Network for Youth Success today called on Governor Cuomo and State Legislators to increase funding for the Advantage After School Program to \$37.12 million. The additional funding is necessary to cover increases in minimum wage costs for staff and raise the per student rate to \$2,320 – still considerably less than actual program costs.

“The dedicated employees who provide afterschool services for New York’s children need and deserve a living wage. Last year’s changes to the minimum wage laws will require increased funding to continue services for 16,000 students in the Advantage After School Program,” 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 services in New York, we cannot afford to reduce programming.”

Research shows that consistent participation in afterschool programs during the elementary school years effectively eliminates the gap in low-income and high-income children’s math achievement at grade 5. Quality afterschool programs improve school attendance and grades, and reduce behavior problems.

New York’s Advantage After School Program provides supervision and development opportunities for up to three hours directly after school – the hours when many parents and caregivers are still at work.

Last year, the Advantage After School Program received \$22 million in state funding to provide care for 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.

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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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