

For further information contact:
NYS Network for Youth Success
(518)694-0660

Afterschool Advocates Rally for \$30 Million Increase to Maintain Advantage After School and Empire State After-School Programs for Students in Underserved Communities

Parents, Children and Advocates Fight to Preserve Safe, Supervised Afterschool Programs

DATE: Wednesday, January 22, 2020

TIME: 2:30-3 pm

PLACE: Million Dollar Staircase, New York State Capitol, Albany, New York

Albany, NY – Families and afterschool advocates from around New York will rally at the New York State Capitol January 22 for increased funding for afterschool programs. A \$30 million increase is necessary to bring the state reimbursement rate into alignment with actual program costs and maintain the number of students in safe, supervised afterschool programs.

The per student rate for the **Advantage After School Program** is currently \$2,000 and the **Empire State After-School Program** is reimbursed at \$1,600 per student – considerably less than actual program costs. The actual cost of afterschool programming ranges from approximately \$3,000 per student in Buffalo to \$6,000 in New York City. That cost is increasing considerably because of the impact of New York’s minimum wage increases on salaries, which make up the largest part of afterschool program budgets.

Afterschool advocates demand an **increase in the per student rate to \$2,320**, which is still less than actual program costs. This would require an increase of \$5.12 million for Advantage After School and \$25.2 million for Empire State After-School in the FY 20-21 State Budget to maintain these vital programs for another year.

The Advantage After School program serves more than 16,000 students in underserved communities around the state. Last year, the FY 19-20 State Budget provided \$22.3 million for this program and \$10.7 million to fund the minimum wage increase for one year. This increase must be made permanent and the base funding must be protected from across-the-board cuts. The **Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention Program** must also be continued at \$24.2 million and **Youth Development Program** funding of \$15.6 million must also be protected from budget reductions.

“The current state reimbursement rate is just not enough to fund quality afterschool programs,” said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the New York State Network for Youth Success. “Afterschool programs not only provide a safe place for students to go, they also decrease risky behaviors, including drug and alcohol use.”

Research shows that **afterschool programs can save more than \$3 for every \$1 invested**, based on improved school performance, increased earning potential, and reductions in crime and future social services costs among youth who participate.

Afterschool advocates will gather January 22 on the Third Floor Terrace of the Legislative Office Building (LOB) at 10 am to discuss the need for funding in their communities before dispersing for meetings with State Legislators. They will regroup at the Million Dollar Staircase at 2:30 pm. The full schedule for the day is:

10-10:30 am: Gather at the Third Floor Terrace, LOB

11am-2:30 pm: Meetings with Legislators in the LOB, State Capitol, and Concourse

2:30-3 pm: Rally at the Million Dollar Staircase, State Capitol

A few of the many organizations participating in Afterschool Advocacy Day in Albany are:

Alliance of New York State YMCAs	Albany
Manhattan Staten Island AHEC	New York City
ACE Mentor Program	Kingston
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Capital Area	Albany
United Way of Broome County	Binghamton
BASCOL (Before and After School Child Care on Location)	Liverpool
Lincoln Elementary School	Mt. Vernon
New York Edge-SASF	Woodside
Northeast STEM Starter Academy	Mt. Vernon
Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation	Brooklyn
Erie County Youth Bureau	Buffalo
Girl Scouts Northeastern New York	Albany
Best Self Behavioral Health	Cheektowaga
Brightside Up	Menands
Schenectady City School District	Schenectady
Children's Aid	New York City
NIA Open House @ IS 187	Brooklyn
Early Care and Learning Council	Albany
Educational Alliance	New York City
ExpandedED Schools	New York City
Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association	Rochester
Greater Rochester After-School Alliance (GRASA)	Rochester
Hope 7 Community Center	Troy
Northwest Buffalo Community Center	Buffalo
Young Leaders Enrichment Program	Bronx

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.

January 20, 2020