

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

## **Afterschool Programs Need State Rate Increase to Continue Positive Student Outcomes**

NYS Budget Funding is Essential to Maintain Advantage After School and Empire State After-School Programs, and Continue Statewide Reductions in Juvenile Crime

Albany, NY – The New York State Network for Youth Success is urging Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature to increase rates for afterschool programs in underserved communities. The increase is necessary to bring the per student 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.

The NYS Network for Youth Success urges 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 to maintain these vital programs this 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.

“New York has seen tremendous reductions in juvenile crime,” said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the New York State Network for Youth Success. “We must maintain afterschool programs to ensure that students have a safe, supervised place to go when school is over but many parents are not yet home from work.”

The hours between 2pm and 6pm are the time youth are most likely to commit a crime or be victims of a crime. Afterschool programs not only provide a safe place for students go, they also **decrease risky behaviors - including drug and alcohol use** - by reinforcing protective factors including self-control, self-confidence and quality peer relationships.

As access to afterschool programs has increased, **youth arrest numbers have decreased** across New York State. A 2019 report by “Fight Crime: Invest in Kids” charted a 70 percent reduction in juvenile arrests nationally since 2000.

#

January 3, 2020