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Buffalo Bills to Engage Local Children at Lights On Afterschool Celebration

Students will Attend Workshops and Rally with Bills Players, Mayor Brown and Superintendent Cash in Honor of Red Ribbon Week Recognizing Alcohol, Drug and Bullying Prevention

Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Time: 4-7 pm (Rally with Buffalo Bills at 4:45 pm)

Place: East High School
820 Northampton St.
Buffalo, NY 14211

Members of the Buffalo Bills will discuss their experiences in afterschool programs with children at a Lights On Afterschool celebration at East High School in Humboldt Park. Mayor Byron Brown, Superintendent Kriner Cash and other public officials will speak at this event, coordinated by the After-School Network of Western New York as part of a national recognition of afterschool programs.

More than 400 children from afterschool programs around the city are expected to participate in the event, which will feature a rally and workshops on bullying prevention, staying drug-free and other issues highlighted in afterschool programs.

“Afterschool programs have been shown to decrease drug and alcohol use, and other risky behaviors, in youth. They provide a safe and encouraging environment that helps students succeed,” said Talisa King, Youth Planning Services Coordinator for Erie County. “When you shed light on our children through afterschool programming, you allow their young minds to shine even brighter.”

The schedule for Buffalo’s Lights On Afterschool celebration is:

4 pm	Registration
4:45 pm	Rally with Mayor Brown, Superintendent Cash and Buffalo Bills
5:15 pm	Buffalo Bills Meet and Greet with Children
5:30 pm	Workshops (every 20 minutes until 7 pm)

The Buffalo Bills are participating in Buffalo’s annual Lights On Afterschool program as part of the NFL’s “Inspire Change” initiative to create positive change in communities and ensure that equal opportunity becomes a reality for all.

“Lights On Afterschool is held every year to remind us of the importance of afterschool programs to our children, families and communities,” said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the NYS Network for Youth Success. “The City of Buffalo is fortunate to have such tremendous leadership on afterschool programs, which provide safe and engaging learning experiences. Quality afterschool programs have been shown to improve school attendance, enhance academic performance and reduce risky behaviors in the hours when school is out but many parents are still working.”

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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.