

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

Funding for Afterschool Programs Must Be Restored to \$22.3 Million in Final NYS Budget
Proposed \$5 Million Cut to Advantage After School Puts More Than 3600 Students at Risk

Albany, NY – Families and educators across New York are calling on Governor Cuomo and State Legislators to **restore funding for the Advantage After School Program to \$22.3 million**. The 2019 Executive Budget proposal reduced funding for Advantage After School by \$5 million, to \$17.3 million. The Assembly’s budget proposal would restore the Governor’s proposed \$5 million reduction. If this cut is not restored, more than 3,600 students across the state could lose access to afterschool care.

“The Assembly clearly recognizes the importance of afterschool for students in underserved communities and working families who rely on these programs,” said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the New York State Network for Youth Success. “The Advantage After School Program serves more than 16,000 students at a fraction of the actual program costs. This \$5 million restoration is urgently needed to keep students safe, learning, and out-of-trouble in the hours when school has ended but many parents are still working.”

Advantage After School provides supervised academic and developmental support through afterschool programs in low-income communities. The program has been funded at \$22.3 million in the past three state budgets. But New York State’s minimum wage increase – which is important for valued afterschool employees – has greatly increased program costs. An additional \$10.7 million was included in this year’s proposed Executive Budget to help cover increased labor costs for one year. This additional funding must be committed annually through FY23-24 to align with the length of afterschool contracts and to ensure that administrators can optimize resources to support students and staff.

The Advantage After School program currently serves more than 16,000 students at a rate of \$1,375 per student. The actual cost of afterschool programming ranges from approximately \$3,000 per student in Buffalo to \$6,000 in New York City. These costs will increase considerably because of the impact of New York’s new minimum wage increases on salaries, which make up the largest part of afterschool program budgets.

The proposed \$5 million reduction to Advantage After School must be restored to keep children safe and keep families 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.

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