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Spotlight on policy updates, tools to support English learners, the importance of afterschool meals, and more

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Spotlight: Afterschool Policy and Advocacy Updates

What's the Latest?

All eyes are on Washington, DC as the government prepares to transition power to President-elect Joe Biden. The incoming administration has already [vocalized their support for public education and afterschool programs](#), but the afterschool community needs support and funding now.

The proposed 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020 will expand access to afterschool funding for the duration of the pandemic so that students can continue to receive the support they need to succeed. These funds are especially critical should Congress pass a [new spending bill with limited, if any, of the funding increases](#) that are desperately needed to support the afterschool community and the entire public education system.



Where Can I Learn More?

1. "First glance: What a Biden-Harris administration may mean for afterschool." Afterschool Alliance provides an overview of Biden's education platform as well as his caregiving platform, which focuses on the needs of working parents. For the full article, [click here](#).

2. "Senate funding bills released with flat funding for afterschool." Afterschool Alliance examines the pending congressional funding bills, detailing the differences between FY2020 afterschool/education funding and proposed FY2021 funding. For the full article, [click here](#).
3. To receive weekly policy updates, please join the Network's Power of 3:00 listserv. To subscribe, [click here](#).

How Can I Take Action?

Urge our elected representatives to prioritize youth in spending bills and/or COVID-19 relief packages. [Contact Congress now!](#)

Is your program working hard to offer quality services to your community? Let us know about it by filling out a [quick questionnaire](#) and we will spotlight your program in an upcoming newsletter.

Interested in advancing in the school-age field?
Need the qualifications to become a Site Director?

EARN YOUR SCHOOL-AGE CREDENTIAL TODAY



RESULTS: Afterschool Alliance Wave 3 Provider Survey



The Afterschool Alliance survey gauged the impact of COVID-19 on afterschool, summer, and expanded learning opportunities and the young people and families who rely on them. Each wave collected responses from providers nationwide since the onset of the pandemic. Afterschool Alliance released the results from Wave 3 on November 19.

The survey showed that a majority of New York programs are physically open this fall. Most are providing support for students who are attending school remotely, and many have extended their hours to accommodate the need. Afterschool providers in New York also continued to highlight concerns about student learning, social, emotional, and mental health, and expressed rising concerns about students without access to programs. They also expressed increased concerns about their long-term funding and their ability to remain viable. For more survey insights into New York afterschool programs, [click here](#).

Wave 1: Read the brief [here](#). For a summary of the survey results, [click here](#).

Wave 2: Read the brief [here](#). For a summary of the survey results, [click here](#).

Wave 3: Read the brief [here](#).

How Learning Happens

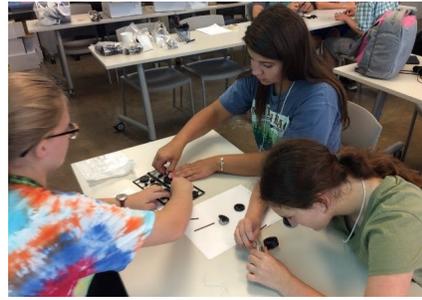
Edutopia has applied the science of human learning and development to create a video series promoting techniques that allow every child to thrive and reach their full potential.

According to Edutopia, the research suggests that "Practices explicitly designed to integrate social, emotional, and cognitive skills in all the places and spaces where young people

learn...can reverse the damages wrought by childhood trauma and stress—while serving the needs of all students and moving them onto a positive developmental and academic path."

Edutopia recently added 10 new videos on afterschool programs, including an entire section on learning beyond the school day.

To access the complete video series, [click here](#).



Supporting English Learners



Afterschool programs are a great place to accelerate English learners' language, literacy, and content knowledge. They provide rich experiences that support participants' success inside and outside the classroom.

The new You for Youth (Y4Y) course on supporting English learners will help afterschool leaders design activities that increase proficiency across the four modalities of language—listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Y4Y provides practical tips on creating a safe learning space that celebrates and embraces cultural diversity, and helps you engage with students and families in authentic ways to make them feel valued and empowered.

For more information, [click here](#).

LAST CHANCE: 2021 Budget Priorities Survey

The New York State Network for Youth Success is currently developing our state budget policy priorities for next year. As a valued partner, we would love your substantive input on what we should be prioritizing in the upcoming budget season. Your participation in this quick survey will help us understand the greatest needs facing the field.



SURVEY CLOSSES WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2.

[Take the survey.](#)

Network for Youth Success Events

In case you missed it

How Afterschool Programs Can Alleviate Food Insecurity Amid COVID-19. View the [recording](#) from the Network's recent Zoom coffee chat with partners at [Hunger Solutions New York](#). We discussed ways afterschool programs can help alleviate hunger, from serving [afterschool meals](#) to helping families connect with [SNAP](#) and [other nutrition programs](#). This is a great resource to understand what new resources and flexibilities are available to help connect kids and families with the food they need. For additional CACFP information and resources, visit [AfterschoolMealsNY.org](#).

For the full recording, [click here](#).

For more information concerning the important role afterschool meals play in supporting children in food-insecure households, [check out this article](#) from Youth Today.

Dec. 8: Put Your Own Oxygen Mask on First, Self-Care for Afterschool Professionals

Today's world brings a host of exhausting challenges that necessitate extra attention to the health and well-being of our field's professionals. Dr. Jamie Freeny, Director of the Center for School Behavioral Health at Mental Health America of Greater Houston, offers recommendations on preventing burnout and compassion fatigue along with strategies and practices to ensure that those who work in service of others are also taking care of themselves. To register, [click here](#).

The Network for Youth Success presents these opportunities in partnership with the National AfterSchool Association and Mental Health America of Greater Houston.

SAVE THE DATE! Jan. 18 (MLK Day): Professional Development Day

Join Timothy Fowler of the Network for Youth Success for a day of professional development for front-line staff! He will lead three different topics across the day:

1. Exploring Culture in Afterschool — How centers and activities can expose school-age children to other experiences and backgrounds.
2. Beyond the Behavior: Guiding Challenging Behaviors — Specific techniques to address challenging behaviors in a positive way that help all youth to be successful.
3. Creating Inclusive Environments for STEAM Learning — A STEAM activity demonstrates how to engage all learners and leave no one behind.

Each session will be 1.5 hours long. Stay tuned for registration information.

Jan. 19 & Apr. 27: Spring 2021 SAC Credential Course (VIRTUAL), Part 2

The Distance Learning School-Age Care (SAC) Preparatory Course includes viewing recorded videos, reading, and preparing a portfolio and resource file. This class meets the education requirement to be a Site Director in New York State. [We are now enrolling for Spring 2021.](#)

SAVE THE DATE! Apr. 23-24, 2021: School's Out, Make it Count

The Network's annual conference will be held April 23-24, 2021. Be ready for two full days of trainings, vendor exhibits, awards, networking, and more. Stay tuned!

Other Events

Dec. 10: How is COVID-19 Impacting the Emotional Well-Being of Adolescents?

We all experience the impact of living during COVID-19, a pandemic that fosters social isolation, restricts physical and emotional contact, and moves social interaction online. While they are designed to keep us physically safe, the conditions we are living under affect our emotional and social health and well-being. What is the impact on young people, who are still learning how to handle stress and develop important social and emotional skills? What are the long-term consequences of growing up during a pandemic?

This free web session from ACT for Youth, led by Jutta Dotterweich, will take a look what experts and researchers tell us and explore promising strategies to support young people in their efforts to navigate this difficult social environment. [Click here](#) to register.

Dec. 10: Managing your Mental Health During the Holidays While Dealing with COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic and physical distancing has created a range of challenges and difficulties, especially during the holiday season. The more we can prepare for this, the more likely we are to make the best out of a potentially challenging time. Join the Early Care and Learning Council for this virtual workshop, which will cover the impact of COVID-19 on

mental health during the holidays. They'll discuss how to make space for a range of emotions, determine your own risk tolerance, and more. [Click here](#) to register.

Dec. 10: Live with Y4Y Presents: Bringing Mindfulness to Out-of-School Time

In the current climate, mindfulness is more important than ever—for both staff and students. Join the Y4Y team, subject matter experts, and afterschool professionals as they share strategies for promoting thoughtful positivity and awareness among staff and students. You'll hear practical advice for integrating mindfulness throughout your program; helpful Y4Y tools and external resources will be highlighted throughout the session. To register, [click here](#).

Dec. 10: Engineering Design with Technovation Webinars

If you are looking for a way to step up your STEAM game in a fun and active way with your kids, this is for you. This is the final of three hour-long virtual sessions with [Technovation](#), helping program staff become experts in leading engineering design challenges that help students develop engineering mindsets to build solutions to any sort of problem: 1) use the engineering design process; 2) evaluate and iterate; 3) persist and learn from failure; and 4) work in teams. Get ready for hands-on building. You'll be part of a supportive learning community. *This session is for program staff (directors, STEM specialists, and facilitators) working with kids in grades 4–8.* To register, [click here](#).

Dec. 15 and 17: Implementing Project-Based Learning (PBL) with Y4Y

Student projects are the perfect way to tap into students' interests, develop their independent and cooperative learning skills and make learning relevant and fun for students of all ages! Learn how Y4Y's resources can support you as you work with students to craft a driving question, facilitate an investigation and work towards a culminating event, all while building students' knowledge and 21st Century skills. Whether you're new to PBL or an old pro, this 2-part series will walk you through best practices for facilitating student-led projects. [Click here](#) to register.

Feb. 17-19: Beyond School Hours 2021 National Education Conference (virtual)

Foundations, Inc is bringing you the great content and high-quality professional learning you expect from Beyond School Hours—adapted for a remote setting! With the new virtual setting, this conference will last all year long. Join for live and exciting professional learning, site visits, and keynotes during the main conference days, and then join for live follow-up webinars for the rest of the year. All webinars are included with conference registration! To register, [click here](#).

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