

Federal Afterschool Policy- 2016

<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyFederal.cfm>

For the latest update on federal afterschool policy, see [Policy News](#).

[21st Century Community Learning Centers \(21st CCLC\)](#), the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to afterschool programs. Learn about its funding history, program outcomes and the types of programs supported by this initiative.

[Current Federal Afterschool Legislation](#) can be accessed on the Afterschool Alliances website. In addition to all House and Senate bills currently under consideration that include an afterschool element, the web page provides links to full bill text, summaries and bill co-sponsorship information.

[Elementary and Secondary Education Act \(ESEA\)](#) is the law authorizing education programs, including 21st CCLC, Supplemental Education Services (SES) and other initiatives that support afterschool programs. ESEA, formerly No Child Left Behind (NCLB), is currently in the process of being reauthorized by Congress, meaning that the goals and suggested funding levels of these efforts are being reviewed for changes. The Afterschool Alliance has developed recommendations for changes in the law to better support afterschool programs. Read about the ESEA reauthorization process and our afterschool recommendations.

[Expanded Learning](#) is a key issue in ESEA reauthorization and in the out of school time field. Expanded learning time (ELT) - adding time to the school day, week or year - is a relatively new approach to expanded learning opportunities. Find resources and policy documents on this topic [here](#).

[STEM and Afterschool](#) Considering 80% of future jobs will require STEM literacy and skills, proficiency in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) is crucial in successful participation within contemporary society and the workplace. After school is a natural fit for incorporating these skills into a child's development. In this section you can get the latest in STEM afterschool policy, resources, allies and more.

[Older Youth and Afterschool: Partnering to Improve Results](#) As the nation struggles to improve high school achievement and prepare the next generation for college and the 21st century workforce, it is clear that older youth in the middle grades are critical. More time is often needed to ensure that students are prepared during these transition years for long-term success. The Afterschool Alliance has research and policy efforts aimed at securing more support for afterschool programs serving older youth.

[Afterschool in Rural Communities: The Investment in Afterschool Programs Act](#) Afterschool programs are uniquely positioned to meet the needs of young people in rural communities. That's why the Afterschool Alliance is working with Congress to create a funding stream specifically for afterschool programs in rural communities.

[Active Hours Afterschool](#) provides tools and information on afterschool and healthy lifestyles, including local wellness policies and partnership opportunities. Programs can play an important role in promoting health, from physical activity to healthy snacks, and are therefore well-positioned to be key partners in health initiatives. The Afterschool Alliance is working to increase support and opportunities for afterschool programs to be involved in these efforts.

[Afterschool & the Economic Recovery Act](#) An economic recovery passed by the U.S. Congress include many potential opportunities--upwards of \$1 billion--that could support

afterschool programs and efforts. Learn about the bill's contents and what needs to be done to make sure afterschool is eligible for these funds.