

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver
Proclamation No. 14-0866

Celebrating Denver afterschool programs and the 15th Annual National Lights on Afterschool Day

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council is committed to quality afterschool programs and the opportunities they provide children and youth, engaging and challenging them through learning experiences that help develop their social, emotional, physical, and academic skills in addition to supporting working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends; and

WHEREAS, quality afterschool programs provide students with activities such as academic support, music, art, sports, leadership development, conflict resolution, and other 21st Century skills and inspire increased confidence, improved social skills and connections to future education and career opportunities; and

WHEREAS, quality afterschool programs have a proven track record of increasing school attendance and improving student engagement and achievement, resulting in higher proficiency in academic subjects and fewer behavior issues; and students who participate are less likely to repeat a grade, be placed in remedial courses or to drop out, but more likely to perform at grade level and be prepared for their future; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver, the Denver Afterschool Alliance, Denver Public Schools, and many of Denver's funding and community-based organizations work together to develop a sustainable, citywide afterschool system to increase access to and participation in quality afterschool programs for all of Denver's youth in order to keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and prepare them for the future; and

WHEREAS, Denver is home to over 93,000 school-aged youth, producing a significant need for afterschool programs to support their academic, social, and physical development; and

WHEREAS, *Lights on Afterschool*, a national celebration of afterschool programs on October 23, 2014, highlights the critical importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, their families and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council pledges to support afterschool programs so that Denver's children and families benefit from quality afterschool programs that help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete and succeed.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Denver City Council recognizes the outstanding leadership of the Denver Afterschool Alliance and the Denver Quality Afterschool Connection for their innovative afterschool programs for Denver children and recognizes the 15th Annual National Lights on Afterschool Day, Thursday, October 23, 2014.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and transmit it to the Office of Education and Children.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 20, 2014

PRESIDENT