

# DENVER CITY COUNCIL



## Proclamation No. 24-0975 Celebrating National Summer Learning Week

**WHEREAS**, the Denver City Council stands firmly committed to quality comprehensive summer youth programming that serve Denver's youth. In particular, the Denver City Council specifically supports year-round comprehensive Out of School Time Programs that encompass before and after school, school breaks, and six plus weeks of full day summer programming because they:

- Provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help children realize their full potential.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and supported when school is not in session.
- Provide evidence-based learning experiences that are proven to help youth develop social, emotional, physical, and academic skills.
- Engage families, schools, and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

**WHEREAS**, comprehensive summer programs provide critical support for the academic growth and well-being of youth and offer new experiences and opportunities that help young people learn and grow. Summer programs provide innovative, hands-on opportunities for youth to engage in learning and connect with caring adults and peers in a safe and supportive environment; and

**WHEREAS**, comprehensive summer programs are essential to Denver's economy because they are a vital support for working families who need to keep their children safe and engaged while parents are at work; and

**WHEREAS**, comprehensive summer programs promote and build protective factors that can lead to a reduction in youth violence and other risk factors by creating safe, welcoming spaces for youth during the summer months where they can connect with trusted adults and cultivate the social-emotional skills needed to make positive decisions for themselves; and

**WHEREAS**, many comprehensive summer programs across the country, state, and Denver are facing funding challenges that are forcing them to close their doors to youth and families in need, and the temporary influx of American Rescue Plan Act funds will be coming to an end in 2026, have only provided short-term assistance and not addressed the Out of School Time industry's systemic funding crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Denver Afterschool Alliance is recognized for its 12+ years of commitment to the field of afterschool, strengthening programming and partnerships, elevating quality, tracking impact and prioritizing funding for this critical youth service.

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

**Section 1.** That the Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes the outstanding leadership of the Office of Children's Affairs with the Denver Afterschool Alliance bringing together stakeholders to create a collaborative, long-term plan for our City's comprehensive summer programs, and recognizes the hard work and dedication to serve Denver's youth during National Summer Learning Week, July 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Office of Children's Affairs.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL July 22, 2024

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PRESIDENT

