

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 13-0660

Celebrating Denver afterschool programs as part of the National Lights on Afterschool Day

WHEREAS, the Council of the City and County of Denver is fully committed to quality afterschool programs and the opportunities they provide children and youth in Denver so they are challenged, and engaged 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; afterschool programs inspire increased confidence, improved social skills, and connections to future educational and career opportunities; and

WHEREAS, quality afterschool programs have a proven track record of increasing day school attendance and improving student engagement and achievement in school resulting in higher proficiency levels in academic subjects, and fewer behavior incidents for students who participate in programs regularly, students who participate in afterschool programs are more likely to perform at grade level, are less likely to repeat a grade, and less likely to be placed in remedial courses, and quality programs help kids excel, prevent school drop-out, and prepare them for the future; and

WHEREAS, the Council supports efforts to engage the diverse needs of students, families, schools, community partners, and business leaders to build a stronger community and advance the well-being of our children through strategic partnerships with those involved in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships between youth and adults; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Afterschool Alliance and the Denver Quality Afterschool Connection, two critical collaborations involving the City, Denver Public Schools, and more than 70 Denver youth-serving organizations are focused on increasing opportunities for Denver youth and to provide extraordinary leadership in the area of engaging the broader community in the education and well-being of youth; and

WHEREAS, *Lights on Afterschool*, a national celebration of afterschool programs, will promote on October 17, 2013, the critical importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, their families and their communities; and

WHEREAS, more than 93,000 school age youth reside in Denver, representing a significant need for afterschool programs to support their academic, social, and physical development; and

WHEREAS, many local afterschool providers face a challenge to overcome funding shortfalls due to reductions, that in some cases, have resulted in programs closing their doors and turning off their lights; and

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council pledges to support afterschool programs so that children, youth, and families in the City and County of Denver 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 collaboration to provide innovative afterschool programs and activities for Denver children and families.

Section 2. That the Denver City Council proclaims Thursday, October 17, 2013, as National Lights on Afterschool Day to raise awareness and support for programs to ensure that lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

Section 3. 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 that a copy be transmitted to the Office of Education and Children.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 14, 2013

_____ PRESIDENT