


PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 21-1267
Celebrating Denver Afterschool Programs and the
2021 Annual National Lights on Afterschool Day

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council stands firmly committed to quality afterschool programs because they: provide evidence-based learning experiences that are proven to help youth develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills; and

WHEREAS, afterschool programs have continued to serve youth and families throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and play an important role in helping Denver youth overcome pandemic challenges of learning loss, social disconnection, and trauma; and

WHEREAS, afterschool programs are essential to Denver's economic recovery efforts because they are a vital support for working families who need to keep their children safe and engaged once the school day ends; and

WHEREAS, afterschool programs prevent youth violence by creating safe, welcoming spaces for youth during the key hours of 3 to 6 p.m., where they can connect with trusted adults and cultivate the social-emotional skills needed to make positive decisions for themselves; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Afterschool Alliance has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the country, state and in our own city are faced with funding challenges that are forcing them to close their doors to youth and families in need, and the temporary influx of federal Covid-19 relief funds will only provide short-term assistance and not address the OST industry's systemic funding crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver and the Denver City Council are invested in the health and safety of all young people by supporting expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy;

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council pledges to support afterschool providers so that Denver's youth and families have access to programs that support their success and strengthen our city.

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 in bringing together all stakeholders to create a collaborative, long-term plan for our City's afterschool system, and recognizes the 2021 National Lights on Afterschool Day, Thursday, October 25, 2021.

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 Children's Affairs.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 25, 2021

PRESIDENT