

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-1504 Celebrating Denver Afterschool Programs and the 2024 Annual National Lights on Afterschool Day

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council stands firmly committed to quality afterschool programs that serve Denver's youth. Specifically, it supports year-round comprehensive Out of School Time Programs that encompass before and after school, school breaks and the summer because these programs:

- Deliver evidence-based learning experiences proven to help youth strengthen academic and social emotional skills while improving connections to school and positive adult role models.
- Ensure that youth have access to available mental health resources.
- Provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help children realize their full potential in creative environments.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe while parents are still at work.

WHEREAS, afterschool 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. Afterschool 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, afterschool 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 once the school day ends; and

WHEREAS, afterschool 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 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, community involvement in education and supported the well-being of Denver youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council is 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; and

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; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Afterschool Alliance is recognized for over 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 DENVER CITY COUNCIL:

Section 1. That the Denver City Council 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 afterschool system, and recognizes the 2024 National Lights on Afterschool Day, Thursday, October 24, 2024.

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 28, 2024

PRESIDENT

