

“Celebrating Our Urban Advantage” - Afterschool Programs



Dr. Traci Young Cooper
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Richland County School District One
September 19th, 2007 (9:00 am)
City of Columbia City Council Meeting

Why is there a need for Afterschool Programs?

- During the after-school hours, children and teens are more likely to become victims of violent crime than at other times
- Violence by teens peaks in the hours immediately after school (3 pm – 6 pm)
- Many teens get involved in dangerous and risky activities during the after-school hours
- Other vices: Car Accidents, Teen Pregnancy, Alcohol/Drug Abuse, Shop Lifting, Poor Academic Performance, Poor Eating Habits, and Youth Obesity

Beyond the Bell in South Carolina.....

- Twenty-four percent of South Carolina's children and youth (K-12) are responsible for taking care of themselves. These children spend an average of nearly seven hours per week unsupervised after school.
- Thirteen percent of South Carolina's children attend some sort of out-of school time program such as after school.
- On average, after school participants spend nine hours per week in after school programs. Participation averages 3.5 days per week for 1.9 hours per day.

Beyond the Bell in America.....

- More than 14 million school age children (25%) are on their own after school. Among them are more than 40,000 — kindergarteners. (*America After 3 PM, May 2004*)
- The parents of more than 28 million school-age children work outside the home. (*U.S. Department of Labor*)
- Only 6.5 million K-12 children (11%) participate in after school programs. An additional 15 million children would participate if a quality program were available in their community. (*America After 3 PM, May 2004*)
- 9 in 10 Americans want all children and teens to have some type of organized activity or safe place to go after school. (*Election Eve Poll, November 2004*)

Benefits of After School Programs

- Truancy Prevention
- Family Building
- Academic Assistance
- Drop-Out Prevention
- Assisting Working Families
- Risky Behavior Reduction
- Recreational Outlets



Q: Who shares the responsibility?

A: All Stakeholders

Q: What is the level of Investment?

A: The average cost of a quality after-school program is between \$1500 and \$2500 per child annually

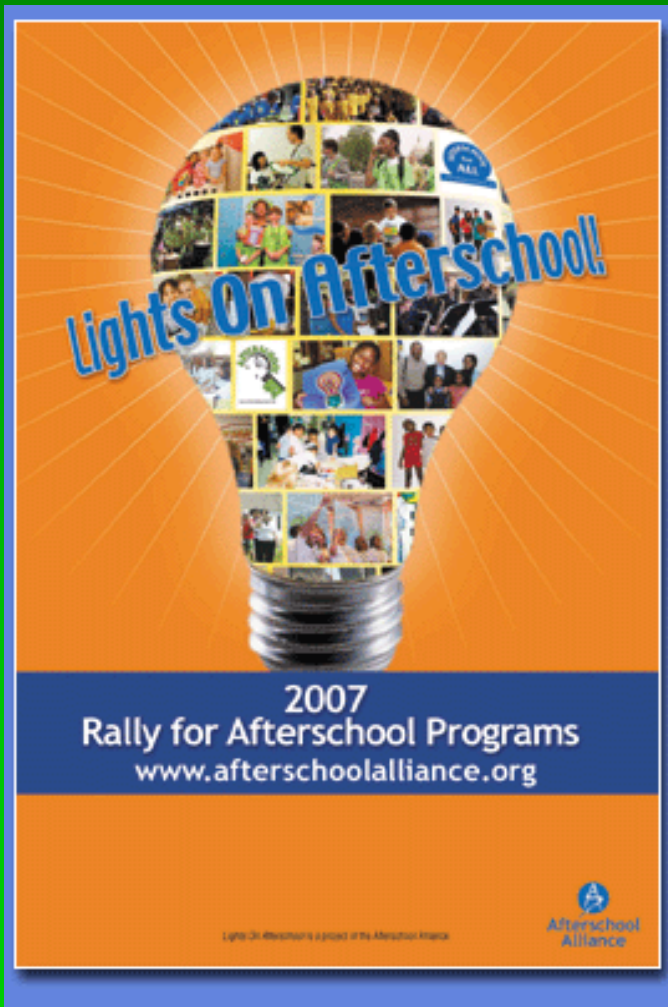
Q: What is the long-term cost for a community's lack of response?

A: Police Chiefs, Sheriffs and Prosecutors agree that investing in after school programs would be more effective at reducing youth violence and crime than hiring more police officers or increasing punitive actions (National After School Alliance, 2006)



Lights On Afterschool!

October 18th, 2007



- Nationwide celebration designed to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America's children, families and communities
- Lights On Afterschool! was launched in October 2000 in more than 1,200 communities (nationwide)
- The event has grown to more than 3,600 events, and more than 7,500 events in 2006.

SAVE THE DATE



- Lights On Afterschool! is a project of the Afterschool Alliance, a non-profit organization (based in Washington, DC) dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs.
- Stakeholder Breakfast (October 18th, 2007) 8:00 am, Charles R. Drew Wellness Center
- Keynote Speaker: Mr. Aaron Dorsey – National School Board Association (Office of Extended Day Learning).

Question & Answer Period

Afterschool Programs:

- Keep Kids Safe
- Help Working Families
- Inspire Learning

