



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Report Validates the Importance of PA Afterschool Programs

Report Says Quality, Affordable Afterschool Programs Are Critical to Pennsylvania Youth

HARRISBURG, Pa (July 9, 2009) – The Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network (PSAYDN) today said they agree with findings and recommendations in the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee's (LBFC) Afterschool Report, which assessed the availability and affordability of afterschool programs in Pennsylvania.

PSAYDN officials said the Afterschool Programs Report promotes discussion regarding the importance of afterschool programs and the program components necessary to positively impact young people. “The need for high quality afterschool programs in Pennsylvania is significant,” acting Director Lynn M. Cromley said. “PSAYDN knows that kids’ formative, out-of-school hours can be filled with quality youth development programs that inspire learning, keep kids safe and help working families.”

The study has received broad bipartisan support in the commonwealth, where nearly 1.3 million school-age children and youth have working parents and many spend, on average, six hours each week unsupervised.

The report recommends the creation of a Statewide Afterschool Coordinating Council to establish goals and steps to address already-identified issues. When formed, the council will promote additional web-based regional databases of afterschool programs; identify potential new funding sources; and assess local needs and barriers to afterschool programs, especially for adolescents. Key findings in the report show that more research is needed to fully understand the benefits and challenges of afterschool programs.

The Network looks forward to supporting the full implementation of the recommendations outlined in the report. “The recommendations are closely aligned with PSAYDN’s core belief that all children and youth deserve access to high quality out-of-school time programs that promote positive youth development and support the successful transition to adulthood,” Cromley stated.

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Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network is a nonprofit organization that promotes sustainable, high-quality out-of-school time youth development programs through advocacy and capacity building to enhance the welfare of Pennsylvania’s children, youth and families. More information is available at www.psaydn.org

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