



# Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

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**New Report Recommends Steps to Address Afterschool Needs for PA**  
*PPC Says Afterschool Programming Vital for Safety and Development of Youth*  
Report Calls for Creation of Statewide Afterschool Coordinating Council

HARRISBURG (July 9, 2009) - The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LB&FC) today released a report on the availability, funding and type of afterschool programs in the Commonwealth. Key findings of the report include that while public funding is available for afterschool programs, it is primarily directed to low-income children 12 and under; transportation can be a major issue for getting children and youth to and from afterschool programs; and that afterschool programs have had difficulty establishing themselves as a recognizable "system."

The report features recommendations including the creation of a Statewide Afterschool Coordinating Council to address issues such as stable sources of funding, program standards, transportation and further assessing local needs and barriers to afterschool programs.

The report was the result of the adoption of House Resolution 824 last year that instructed the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to assess the afterschool needs of children and youth in the Commonwealth. The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Jake Wheatley; D-Allegheny.

"Afterschool programs engage children and youth in constructive supervised activities designed to promote learning and positive development beyond the traditional school day. Research clearly shows that quality afterschool programs keep our young people safe and out of trouble, improve academic achievement and help working families," said Joan L. Benso, president and CEO, PA Partnerships for Children. "Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children thanks the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee for undertaking this important study and for Rep. Jake Wheatley for his leadership on this issue."

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Other recommendations in the report include promoting regional databases of afterschool programs so parents can better find local programs for their children, and identifying further opportunities for funding afterschool programs through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

“It is our hope this report provides a foundation upon which we can engage in a public policy discussion about afterschool programming and funding in Pennsylvania,” Benso said. “The recommendations map out specific strategies that can lead to the advancement of policies that grow and sustain afterschool programming in the Commonwealth. We urge policymakers to take action to implement them in the very near future.”

More information is available by contacting Kathy Geller Myers of Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC) at 717-236-5680 or [kqmyers@papartnerships.org](mailto:kqmyers@papartnerships.org). Visit us at [www.papartnerships.org](http://www.papartnerships.org)

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