



The Afterschool Lab Report

July 2017

Welcome to the *Afterschool Lab Report*, the Afterschool STEM Hub's very first e-newsletter. Each quarter, we'll send you the latest policy news (**Introduction**), new resources (**Materials**), upcoming opportunities for advocacy (**Methods**), and new research (**Further Reading**). Thank you for your interest, we look forward to your "peer-review."

Introduction: Policy updates

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): Since the nation's new education law passed in December 2015, 25 states have submitted plans to the Department of Education, or released drafts for public comment, for how they will implement the new law; the other 25 states are actively working to meet the final September deadline. Afterschool and summer STEM [fared relatively well](#) in the reauthorization process, but as half of the states now have plans mostly finalized, advocates now must turn their attention to guiding states and districts in implementation.

Start by learning what's been included so far. Education First analyzed the 25 submitted plans and public drafts for innovations in STEM education. [Read their report](#) and tune into the [upcoming webinar](#) July 27 at 12 p.m. EDT.

Career and Technical Education: On June 22, the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century* (H.R. 2353) passed the House of Representatives with strong bipartisan support, providing a much-needed modernization of the 2006 *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act*. There are several positive changes for afterschool and summer learning—including explicit inclusion of community-based organizations as eligible partners; a recognition of the importance of employability and STEM skills; and the ability to use funding starting in 5th grade, rather than 7th. Next, the bill goes to the Senate for approval. You can help by telling your representatives about the great work afterschool and summer programs do to prepare youth for the workforce. Read more on the Afterschool Alliance's blog, the [Afterschool Snack](#).

Materials: New tools & resources

Fact Sheet: [Students Achieve More with Afterschool STEM](#) makes the case for afterschool STEM by outlining the unique affordances of learning STEM in afterschool, and highlights current research showing the impacts on students, schools, and communities.

Policy Recommendations: [From Evidence to Policy: The Case for STEM in Afterschool](#) contains a set of policy recommendations drawn from current research that can be used to guide decision makers at the local, state, and federal level.

Guidance on Federal Opportunities: [Resources for STEM Education](#), released by the Department of Education, helps clarify ways Federal formula grants can be used to support STEM education through ESSA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

Methods: Upcoming advocacy opportunities

Start planning for *Lights On Afterschool 2017*. Join America's biggest rally for afterschool on October 26 and take the opportunity to invite elected officials and other stakeholders to an event that showcases the power of afterschool STEM. [Register here.](#)

Get to know your state's ESSA plan. Check out this [interactive map](#) from the Afterschool Alliance for highlights relevant to afterschool, and tune in to Education First's webinar, [Making the Most of STEM in ESSA](#) to get a sense of what states are proposing related to STEM (Thursday, July 27 at 12 p.m. EDT).

Results: Impacts of coordinated advocacy

Afterschool for All Challenge: On June 7, advocates from 45 states met with members of congress and their staff to make the case for afterschool on Capitol Hill. The Afterschool Alliance's signature annual advocacy event resulted in three new Afterschool Caucus members, 12 new co-sponsors of *The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act*, and overwhelmingly positive support for 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative. Leadership from the Afterschool STEM Hub met with the Office of Management and the Budget, the Department of Education, and the National Science Foundation. Read more on the Afterschool Alliance's blog, [the Afterschool Snack](#).

Summer Learning Day: On July 13, the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) held their national advocacy day to spread awareness of the importance of summer learning. Full results aren't yet in, but more than 2,500 emails were sent to congress in support of summer learning. Though the official day is over, events are scheduled [throughout the summer](#).

Further Reading: New research

[Afterschool Learning is a Powerful STEM Solution](#) previews findings from an 11-state study with 1,600 youth. It shows that participation in afterschool STEM programs increased interest in STEM and STEM careers and grew identity and 21st century skills. The PEAR Institute at Harvard University and IMMAP at Texas Tech University conducted the research.

Afterschool Matters' [Spring 2017 issue](#) includes not one, but three STEM articles! Read about a new framework for understanding the impacts of out-of-school time STEM, engaging urban students with engineering, and how STEM-rich making aligns with youth development goals.

Change the Equation takes a closer look at the [state of science in 4th grade classrooms](#) and raises the [critical challenge](#) faced by poor students attending schools with high concentrations of poverty in accessing STEM experiences and classes.

Up Next

- Catch the Afterschool STEM Hub exhibit booth at the U.S. Department of Education's [21st Century Community Learning Centers Summer Institute](#) (July 25-27 in Philadelphia) and the [Association of Science-Technology Centers' Annual Conference](#) (October 21-24 in San Jose, CA).
- In September's *Afterschool Lab Report*, we'll have updated [Talking Points](#) with new supporting data and a focus on workforce preparation; a guide to using visual messaging; and a glossary for the [STEM Swamp](#).