



## The Afterschool Lab Report



### INTRODUCTION: POLICY UPDATES

**FY2019 is good news for afterschool STEM:** On July 11, after a 13-hour session, the House Appropriations Committee completed their mark-up of the FY2019 education and health funding bill. The FY2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Acts maintains the full current \$1.212 billion funding level for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center afterschool and summer learning programs—crucial programs to expanding access to STEM-learning opportunities for students. As the appropriations process continues, the bill is now on its way to the House floor for passage. To read more about the FY2019 spending bill, check out [this blog](#) from the Afterschool Alliance.

**White House holds STEM summit for field leaders:** On June 25 and 26 more than 200 STEM education stakeholders from all 50 states gathered to help inform the upcoming five-year STEM Education Strategic Plan. The first day of the summit included two panels, including speakers Ivanka Trump, Education Secretary DeVos, and Jeff Weld, senior policy advisor in STEM education for the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). The second day of the summit was hosted by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and focused on providing feedback on the previous five-year STEM Strategic Plan, discussion of general priority areas for the new plan, and ways to make federal STEM programs more responsive to state and local needs. View the previous five-year Strategic Plan [here](#).

**New STEM education advisory panel:** On a related note, on July 11, the National Science Foundation announced the creation of a new advisory panel created to encourage scientific and technological innovations in education. The panel's focus as authorized by Congress is to help identify opportunities in the new Five-Year Federal

STEM Education Strategic Plan. The panel is composed of 18 members from the nonprofit, business, academic, and information education spaces and includes members from Project Lead the Way, Inc., the National Science Teachers' Association, the Museum of Science Boston, and the Exploratorium.

**Updates on career and technical education:** The Perkins Career and Technical Education reauthorization bill that passed the Senate HELP Committee last month passed the full Senate on July 23 and passed the full House on July 25. The legislation is expected to be signed into law by the President very soon. To read more about how this legislation can support afterschool, check out [this blog](#) on the Afterschool Snack.

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## MATERIALS: NEW TOOLS & RESOURCES

**STEM Hub feedback to OSTP:** As previously mentioned in this report, STEM advocates are making sure their voices are heard as the Five-Year Strategic Plan for STEM education is developed, and the STEM Hub leadership group is no exception. After meeting with Jeff Weld at OSTP this past April, we sent along our feedback, which can be found on our website along with our new accompanying graphic.

Visit our website for more information!



## METHODS: UPCOMING ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Lights On Afterschool 2018:** Join with advocates across the country on October 25 to shine a light on the importance of afterschool STEM programs! Launched in 2000, *Lights On Afterschool* is the only nationwide event celebrating the importance of afterschool programs to children, families, and their communities. This year, afterschool STEM will remain an event theme for *Lights On Afterschool*. Take a look at [past event ideas](#) and [register today](#) to participate.

**ThinkBIG Challenge:** ThinkSTEAM is challenging girls across the globe to share their stories about science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Individually, or in teams, young women will use their imagination and creativity to create a quick 1-4 minute video highlighting their personal passions for STEM engagement, inspiring other girls to enter STEM fields, and how this can be done through the arts to ignite, highlight, and amplify girls' interest in STEAM. Participating teams may win any of a selection of prizes generously donated by ThinkSTEAM partners. Submissions are due by August 15, 2018.

Explore Lights On 2018!

Learn more!

## RESULTS: IMPACTS OF COORDINATED ADVOCACY

**Summer Learning Day:** On July 12, advocates from across the country came together to spread awareness about the importance of summer learning. With more than 900 registered events across the U.S. in more than 300 cities, 45 states, and the District of Columbia, programs made their voices heard! Many summer programs provide valuable opportunities to students to explore STEM and events are still taking place through the end of summer, so [keep an eye out](#) for programming in your area to participate!

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### FURTHER READING

Issues six and seven of **Connected Science Learning** are out! Issue 6, released this spring, focuses on successful in-school and out-of-school STEM programming focused on environmental and citizen science. Issue 7, released this summer, explores the same concepts with “maker” programs.

Check them out!

**State of STEM: Defining the Landscape to Determine High-Impact Pathways for the Future Workforce** from STEMconnector illustrates the current STEM landscape to identify critical gaps in the STEM workforce and the future workforce overall. Created from interviews with more than 100 subject matter experts in STEM fields, the report explores the layers and underlying challenges of identifying the gap in STEM-ready workers.

Read more!

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### UP NEXT

Keep an eye out for new resources from our partners at the FrameWorks Institute!

