



## The Afterschool Lab Report



### INTRODUCTION: POLICY UPDATES

**Congress agrees to budget deal:** Last week, congressional leaders reached an agreement with the administration on a two-year budget deal to raise the spending caps and prevent cuts to both defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs. The deal provides a significant increase (\$24.5 billion) to NDD over the FY19 budget level, but is slightly below the levels that House provided in their appropriations bills passed in June. The House passed the budget deal last week before heading out of town for August recess, and the Senate is expected to pass it this week before sending it to the president, where he is expected to sign it. The Senate is expected to begin marking up appropriations bills in September when they return from recess.

**Building Blocks of STEM Act passes House:** In April we shared that the Building Blocks of STEM Act (S737, HR1665), a bipartisan bill to support research in STEM education focused on early childhood and elementary-aged students was reintroduced in the House by Reps. Stevens (D-Mich.) and Baird (R-Ind.). We're happy to report that the legislation passed the House on July 23 and now awaits passage in the Senate. At the moment, the Senate and House bills vary slightly, meaning that both houses would ultimately have to conference the bill and agree on the same language if it's to ultimately pass Congress and be sent to the president. More information on the bill's passage in the House can be found [here](#).

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### MATERIALS: NEW TOOLS & RESOURCES

Jobs in science, technology, engineering, and math fields power our economy and build shared prosperity among our society. Investing in afterschool and summer STEM

Research shows that skilled staff are key to the afterschool program quality that produces positive youth outcomes. NAA's Professional Credentialing System

learning programs will help students explore these subject areas while teaching valuable skills that will help them in school, college, and their future careers. This one pager from the Afterschool Alliance has all the facts you need to help build a case for afterschool STEM in your community.

Explore it!

(NAAPCS) recognizes individuals for competencies that contribute to the development of high-quality programs for young people. The NAAPCS currently includes 10 STEM micro-credential badges. Interested in learning more about the system, becoming a PD provider, assessor, or applicant?

Learn more!



## METHODS: UPCOMING ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

October 24, 2019, marks the Afterschool Alliance's 20th *Lights On Afterschool* Celebration! Launched in October 2000, *Lights On Afterschool* is the only nationwide event celebrating the role and impact of afterschool programs in the lives of children, families, and communities. Help make this year's *Lights On Afterschool* the biggest yet and show how afterschool programs in your community shine bright by hosting an event in your community this October.

Register your event!

## RESULTS: IMPACTS OF COORDINATED ADVOCACY

**Summer Learning Week:** From July 8 to July 13, summer learning programs raised their voices in support of summer learning and 21st Century Community Learning Center programs. With more than 600 registered events across the U.S. in more than 200 cities and 38 states, programs made their voices heard. Summer learning programs provide students with valuable opportunities for STEM engagement and ensure that students return to school in the fall ready to succeed in the year. Learn more about the successes of Summer Learning Week and ways to participate [here!](#)

**The Afterschool for All Challenge:** On June 11 and 12, advocates from across the country arrived in Washington, D.C., for the 18th annual Afterschool for All Challenge.

Nearly 200 individuals, from 41 states, attended more than 175 meetings with their senators and representatives to elevate the importance of afterschool programs in their communities. In addition to the meetings held on Capitol Hill, nearly 9,000 emails and calls to Congress were made by advocates nationwide.

[Read more!](#)

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## FURTHER READING

*Input to Impact: A Framework for Measuring Success Across the STEM Ecosystem*, the latest research report from STEMconnector, provides a common definition for success and a framework for measurement for investors in the STEM workforce looking to make high impact investments. Building off of the findings of their State of STEM report, *Input to Impact* provides a comprehensive view of the STEM talent ecosystem.

[Read the report!](#)

Program evaluation is an important element of making the case for afterschool STEM learning. Not only can evaluation be a valuable tool for advocacy, programs with high impact, quality evaluations can practice ongoing quality assurance and development. Issue 11 of *Connected Science Learning*, focuses on “practical program evaluation,” focusing on how program evaluation can make a difference in STEM programming.

[Read the issue!](#)

