The Afterschool Lab Report

INTRODUCTION: POLICY UPDATES

Afterschool is a winner in FY19 budget: In late September, the president signed the FY2019 Defense-LHHS-CR spending bill into law, which included a $10 million increase to 21st Century Community Learning Centers. This increase brings the total funding for the program to a record level of $1.22 billion, and will provide afterschool programs to an additional 10,000 students across the country. Along with the increase to 21st CCLC came increases to many education programs. More information on the final appropriation bill can be found here.

5-Year Strategic STEM Education Plan: A new strategic plan for STEM education is currently under development by the Committee on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education (CoSTEM), with a planned release by the end of 2018. Based on the priorities that came out of the STEM Summit in July, and observations and conversations since then, we can expect the next five-year strategic plan to place a heavy emphasis on career readiness and workforce development as related to STEM education. This emphasis should provide room for afterschool and informal STEM education to be at the table in these efforts.

CTE bill signed into law by president: In July's Lab Report, we left off with the Perkins Career and Technical Education bill having passed both the House and Senate. We are happy to report that the president signed the bill into law a few days later, marking the official reauthorization of the Perkins CTE Act. For a more detailed explanation of what was included in the bill, including new opportunities for out-of-school time programs, check out the Afterschool Alliance's blog here.

New California "Kids Code" program to expand computer coding in afterschool: Earlier this year, the California Legislature approved a $15 million pilot program to bring computer coding programming to afterschool across the state. The Kids Code Program will expand access to coding in existing After School Education and Safety (ASES) Programs in California, and serve between 180 and 250 sites. More details are available

in a blog post from the Afterschool Alliance.

MATERIALS: NEW TOOLS & RESOURCES

New Materials to the Afterschool STEM Hub: Last month the Afterschool STEM Hub released our new suite of resources to help you make the case for afterschool. Our new resources include two new pages of our toolkit and new guides for reframing your messaging. Read more about our new resources in our last edition of the Afterschool Lab Report or explore the new resources on our website.

<div align="center">

Explore our website!

</div>

METHODS: UPCOMING ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Computer Science Education Week: Start planning now for this year's CS Education Week. Across the country, December 3-9, programs will sharing out the importance of computer science education. Participate by bringing an Hour of Code in your classroom, host a Computer Science Tech Jam, or advocate locally for computer science for all students.

Make your support for afterschool STEM heard: The November elections are just days away. Make sure that your representatives will be champions for afterschool STEM by reaching out to let them know your priorities. Check out the Afterschool Alliance Campaign for Afterschool Toolkit for tools to contact your newly elected officials. Your voice and the voices of your community can drive your elected officials priorities, so bring afterschool STEM into the conversation!

From Common Measures to Measures in Common: The University of Washington's Research+Practice Collaboratory, the National Girls Collaborative Project, and the Afterschool Alliance have received a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to convene both researchers and practitioners from the afterschool STEM field to discuss, identify, and collaborate on improved measures for evaluating the impact of the out-of-school time STEM space. The conference is scheduled for November 2019. If you are involved in developing or using evaluation tools that are being scaled and used nationally, please reach out to bronwynb@uw.edu.

<div align="center">

Learn more!

</div>

RESULTS: IMPACTS OF COORDINATED ADVOCACY

Afterschool STEM a topic of discussion at CSforAll Summit in Detroit: The 2018 CSforALL Summit was held October 8-11th in Detroit. Built into this year's summit was a full day working session, entitled Mo' Time for CS Education, that was held to bring practitioners, advocates, researchers, and experts from afterschool, summer learning, library, and museums together to discuss how computer science can be incorporated into the afterschool space. The full day session built off of a session held earlier this year in New York City, and included opportunities to discuss how afterschool programs are prime venues to expand CS education, particularly to students from underserved communities. Read more here!

Lights On Afterschool: On October 25th, afterschool programs across the country held events to show the importance of afterschool programs in their communities. STEM programs were heavily represented this year by more than 600 STEM-focused events from the more than 8,400 events. Read more about Lights On Afterschool 2018!

FURTHER READING

Connected Science Learning: This month the National Science Teacher's Association released Part 1 of Issue 8 of connected science learning, STEM Learning During Afterschool Time. This issue features successes from Minnesota 4-H's Engineering Design Challenge, a spotlight of the Olive Children Foundation's afterschool STEM program's three-focus approach to affordable STEM learning, and an overview of how the Detroit Zoological Society engaged afterschool students and educators in hands-on activities focused on their urban environments.

<div align="center">

Read more!

</div>

Priority areas in 2018 workforce development legislation: A new resource from the Education Commission of the States outlining the growing trend of workforce development policies, programs, and initiatives across the United States. Over the past year 166 bills supporting workforce development policies were introduced in 32 states, with 28 bills ultimately enacted.

<div align="center">

Explore the legislation!

</div>