



The Afterschool Lab Report



INTRODUCTION: POLICY UPDATES

STEM Plan Update: The White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy recently released a progress report on the federal implementation of the five-year STEM education strategic plan published in December 2018. The progress report combines an update on how agencies are implementing the new strategic plan with the inventory of federal investments in STEM education across the federal government. One of the more relevant pathways laid out in the strategic plan that applies to the informal STEM education field was a focus on developing and enriching strategic partnerships, particularly among federal agencies and education institutions, libraries, museums, and community organizations. Updates from a number of agencies are included in this section, providing insight into how the federal government is implementing the new plan. Check out the [full progress report](#) for more updates.

CSforALL Recap and EcoSystemsforCS: The 2019 CSforALL Summit was held October 21-23 at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, UT. This year's theme, systems change, was echoed throughout the conference as members made commitments to expand CS education opportunities across the spectrum. The Afterschool Alliance, in partnerships with the STEM Education Coalition has committed to working with 16-20 statewide afterschool networks to identify two state-level opportunities for advocacy and policy initiatives that expand access to CS in the out-of-school-time space by summer 2020. A full list of the 250 commitments can be found [here](#).

On the final day of the summit, CSforALL announced the awardees of a new initiative, EcoSystemsforCS. Ten new EcoSystemsforCS were representing communities in

Washington, Ohio, Florida Illinois, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Virginia, Alabama, and New Mexico will receive technical assistance and funding over next year to launch their new ecosystems. More info on the new initiative and communities represented can be found [here](#).

MATERIALS: NEW TOOLS & RESOURCES

NSF INCLUDES Planning Grants: The deadline for applications for the NSF Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science (NSF INCLUDES) is quickly approaching. Proposals for the grant - that focuses on creating systems and understanding surrounding broadening participation in STEM - are due on December 3, 2019. For those interested in applying and learning more, NSF is hosting a live Q&A session November 7, 2019 at 1 p.m. EST. [RSVP here](#).

METHODS: UPCOMING ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

State afterschool STEM initiatives continue into fourth year: The Afterschool Alliance, in partnership with the STEM Education Coalition, has just kicked off the fourth year of a project supporting afterschool STEM policy at the state level through the 50 State Afterschool Networks. Thanks to the generous support from the Overdeck Family Foundation, 18 statewide afterschool networks will be receiving funding and technical assistance as they develop support and pursue policy opportunities to expand access to afterschool STEM for students in their states. The states in the 2019-20 cohort are: Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, and Vermont.



RESULTS: IMPACTS OF COORDINATED ADVOCACY

20th Anniversary of Lights On Afterschool: This year afterschool programs, supporters, advocates, and youth came together to make the 20th Lights On Afterschool the biggest yet. More than 1 million students, parents, educators, business and faith leaders, policymakers, community members, hosted more than 10,000 events to show their support for afterschool programs. Of those 10,000 events nearly 20% focused on the importance of Afterschool STEM!

Learn more about events that took place near you on the [Afterschool Snack](#).

2019 EIR Grant Recipients Announced: On September 27, 2019, the U.S. Department of Education announced the new grant awardees for the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) grant program. These grants provide funding to create, implement, or scale evidence-based academic opportunities for high-needs students. The past few years the grant has included a priority for programs looking expand opportunities for computer science. This year \$123 Million was awarded overall and \$78 Million was specifically awarded to STEM programs. 85% of the STEM funding overall were for projects with a focus on K-12 computer science.

FURTHER READING

After-School Programs and STEM: The Key to an Inclusive Tech Future: Earlier this month, Dell Technologies published [this article](#) on the role afterschool programs can play in encouraging more underrepresented youth to consider an education and/or career in STEM fields. The article includes a quote from the Afterschool Alliance's Jodi Grant alongside data from the PEAR Institute's 11 state STEM systems-building evaluation.

Read the article!

Issue 12 of Connected Science Learning: The most recent Issue of the ASTC and NSTA publication focuses on establishing and understanding a "STEM mindset." The issue includes articles focused professional development for educators and a deeper dive into STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math).

Read the issue!

