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Policy BRIEF

Youth Community Connections
Minnesota's Statewide Afterschool Alliance

Afterschool Community Learning Opportunities Act

Ensuring all young people have access to quality learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

This act outlines how the State of Minnesota can make investments in afterschool community learning opportunities that leverage public, private and personal contributions.

Together these shared investments become part of a more comprehensive solution in ensuring all children and youth learn, grow and develop beyond the classroom.

EXPAND AFTERSCHOOL COMMUNITY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Increase State funds for afterschool community learning opportunities, [M.S. 124D.2211](#), to ensure access to learning happens beyond the classroom.

- ◆ Direct grants to enhance, expand, and help sustain programs serving children and youth most in need.
- ◆ Designate funding for a series of "Innovation" grants to build better systems of community support for afterschool and community learning opportunities.

LEVERAGE PRIVATE RESOURCES FOR AFTERSCHOOL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE INVESTMENTS IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Youth Community Connections works with private foundations to match or leverage state investments to afterschool community learning opportunities.

Leveraging resources from private foundations and corporations increases the amount available to afterschool community learning programs and builds the capacity of the field by funding technical assistance and training.

STUDY YOUTH TRANSPORTATION NEEDS IN MINNESOTA

Request a study that assesses and articulates options to address transportation needs of children, youth and families across the state in order to increase access to learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

- ◆ Identify transportation models that connect with best practices for afterschool opportunities beyond the classroom in the community.
- ◆ Review liability issues related to transporting children and youth to and from afterschool and community learning opportunities. Make recommendations that assist in increasing access without increasing liability for providers.
- ◆ Examine how youth transportation is currently funded – public, private and personal contributions - and make recommendations that are sustainable within communities.

ASSESS THE STATE OF AFTERSCHOOL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN MINNESOTA

Request a study that assesses and articulates the *State of Afterschool Community Learning Opportunities* in Minnesota. This report will provide data on:

- ◆ Identify where afterschool community learning opportunities exist and where are the gaps in opportunities; and
- ◆ Recommend how to engage more children and youth in afterschool and summer learning opportunities to assist in closing the opportunity gap.

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