

1 Oppose \$10.7 million cut in Governor's budget to after-school and summer youth programs

The proposed cuts include: Priority School District Grants: Extended School Hours and Summer School Grants eliminated (-\$6,494,451), Pilot funding for Summer Learning in the After School Grant line (-\$300,000), Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership (LEAP) (-\$240,687), Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program (-\$262,500), Neighborhood Youth Centers (-\$1,356,379), School Age Funding in Child Care Services Program (TANF/CCDBG) (-\$808,056), Youth Service Bureaus (-\$1,309,568). These cuts would close sites and leave children home alone. After-school and summer programs need more funding, not less!

2 Establish Summer Learning Grant Program **Pass bill to establish a Summer Learning Grant Program, and provide initial funding in the Department of Education budget.**

Summer learning loss is a major contributor to the state's achievement gap, and adding \$6.2 million to the After School Grant line and \$500,000 to the Neighborhood Youth Centers line would create a new competitive grant program to begin to address this need based upon the successful After School Grant program. Grant amounts would range from \$50,000 - \$300,000 depending on the size of the district and number of students served and would require community partnerships and well-rounded programs with recreation, enrichment and academics.

3 Reinstate Full After School Grant Funding **Add \$3.9 million to the After School Grant line in the Department of Education budget**

In 2013 CSDE began requiring programs to run for the full school year to better meet families' needs, which increased maximum grant size from \$150,000 to \$200,000, but had the negative effect of reducing the number from 40 grants in 2011-13 to 26 grants in 2013-15.

4 Reinstate "After School Quality Enhancement" **Add \$300,000 to the After School Quality Enhancement line in the Department of Education budget**

This line item, zeroed out in 2009, is would be used to build a quality improvement infrastructure for after school and summer youth programs, in particular to begin work on a statewide quality advising, technical assistance and training to support front-line staff and program directors in programs serving school-age children and youth.

For additional information, please visit www.ctafterschoolnetwork.org or contact Michelle Doucette Cunningham, Executive Director of the Connecticut After School Network at mdc@ctafterschoolnetwork.org or (office) 860-730-2941 (mobile) 860-794-4978.

