



Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2008 - 130

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Principals

FROM: Jim McBride, Ed.D.
Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: September 05, 2008

SUBJECT: Importance of After School Programming

INFORMATION TO SHARE

Afterschool programs keep kids safe and supervised, inspire learning and help working families. Afterschool programs are **important** and the benefits of these programs to Wyoming students, families and communities are **valuable** to Wyoming schools.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21 CCLC) federal grants for afterschool programming are distributed throughout Wyoming to provide academic and enrichment opportunities to students during times when they are away from the regular classroom environment. In addition to the 21 CCLC grants, other afterschool programming is implemented at various schools and as part of local community organizations. Whether or not afterschool programs receive specific funding, they all build upon what takes place in the classroom and provide new and exciting opportunities for enrichment and the expansion of learning.

Afterschool programs vary greatly in the types of activities they offer, however, they each provide additional opportunities to use the time when students are out of school (either before school, after school or summer recess) to support academic, social/emotional, prevention and/or health opportunities that reap a host of benefits. Although afterschool programs look, sound and operate differently than traditional school day programs, both school day and afterschool programming share the same goal of supporting student success. Afterschool programs can better achieve this goal when a strong alignment between the afterschool programs and the schools exists. This alignment is not simply an acknowledgement of the afterschool programming, but an established partnership allowing the afterschool program and the school day learning to parallel one another as allies.

It is imperative that schools (superintendents, principals, faculty and staff) partner with afterschool programs and focus upon a positive connection that can expand the learning day while engaging students in safe, exciting, fun and enriching learning opportunities. **Schools and afterschool programs working together support overall student success.**

If you have questions regarding the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant, please contact Kimberly Prey at 307.777.5332 or kprey@educ.state.wy.us.

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