



555 West Washington Ave, Suite 200
Madison, WI 53703

www.wccf.org
☎ 608-284-0580
✉ 608-284-0583

May 14, 2007

TO: Joint Finance Committee

FR: Charity Eleson, Executive Director

RE: Statewide After-School Programs

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) would like you to support the motion to provide a statewide after-school grant program. WCCF would like after-school programs to be available for all children in Wisconsin. State investments are needed to make quality after-school a reality.

Quality after-school programs produce academic success, keep kids safe and provide parents with knowing where their children are and what they are doing after school.

National research shows that after school programs can enhance a child's academic achievement and ensure that children are in safe, structured environments in after school hours. After-school programs have proven to increase a child's motivation, engagement in learning, expectations of success and social competencies. Children who gain these "intermediary" skills do better in school and are more successful as adults. Additionally, the hours after school are the peak time for children to engage in at-risk behavior. After-school programs keep kids out of trouble by providing safe and structured time during these critical afternoon hours.

After-school programming also provides an important ingredient to a parent's employment stability by giving parents peace of mind about what their children are doing after school, helping them to balance work and family responsibilities. In Wisconsin, 74 percent of children live in families in which all parents in the household are working.

After-school programs are a good investment. We need to make sure children are safe after school and are given opportunities to engage in learning and a positive social setting.

Thank you for your time. Please contact me at 284.0580 ext 302 if you need more information.