



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON

**children
& families**

Raising Voices to Make Every Kid Count

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After-School Poll Shows Public Support

Madison - A poll announced last month shows voters understand and value after-school programs. According to Lake, Snell and Perry & Associates, seven out of ten voters support increasing state supported after-school programs. Wisconsin Council on Children and Families together with the After-School Network plan to advocate for expansion of Wisconsin after-school programs in the upcoming Legislative session.

“After-school programs are a proven way to provide a safe and educational environment while meeting the needs of working parents. We know that after-school works to help kids be safe and help them be more involved in their community,” said Charity Eleson, executive director, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

The Department of Public Instruction has included 5 million dollars in increased after-school funding as a part of their agency budget request. This support could help remove the biggest identified barrier of funding for new programs in many schools including many rural districts in Wisconsin where no after-school programs are offered.

“All over Wisconsin there are success stories every day for kids and their working families about how after-school helps provide them a safe place to be when school is out. Our hope is that with this proof that voters understand and value expansion of after-school, more children will have the opportunity attend,” Rae Williams DiMilo, School-age Program Manager, UW Milwaukee Children’s Center.

Wisconsin After-School Facts:

- Wisconsin parents in the workforce with children: 71 percent
- Difference in work school week and parents work week can be as much as: 25 hours
- Between 3-6pm children are more likely to:
 - be a victim of a crime
 - engage in high risk activity
- For middle school children, being supervised after school reduces by half the risk they will smoke, drink, or abuse drugs

For more information on after-school in Wisconsin ***Schools Out!***, a report of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families is available online at: <http://www.wccf.org/pdf/schoolsout.pdf>

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