

New Jersey After 3 Take Action! Tool Kit

The current FY 2010 Budget Proposal calls for a \$4,000,000 (27%) reduction to the New Jersey After 3 appropriation. This proposed reduction will leave some 4,000 children from working and middle class families, without a safe place to learn and grow during the most dangerous time for children, the hours from 3 pm to 6 pm. It will also eliminate 400 jobs for afterschool educators. Below are some tools and resources that you can utilize to demonstrate to your State policy maker that now more than ever New Jersey After 3 needs funding for afterschool programs.

Immediate Action Steps:

Proposed Time frame:

- 1. Collect signatures on the enclosed community petition** **April 30**
Get parents, staff, school staff, and community stakeholders to sign up!
- 2. Mail Parent Letters** **April 30**
 - A. Identify 5-10 reliable parents who can write letters to your local legislators & the Governor; you can use the detailed sample included, OR
 - B. Use the quick & easy signature letter for parents not willing to personalize the sample.
- 3. Mail Staff Letters** **April 30**
You and your youth development staff can send letters to your local legislators & the Governor; you can use the samples included.

Please keep us up to date with an email or call on any activities that you or your agency participates in.

Thank you!

You can do MORE!

- 1. Call you local legislator using the **Phone Script.****
- 2. Use the **Talking Points** when describing our challenge to parents and allies.**
- 3. Use the **Sample Press Release** to raise awareness about the proposed budget cuts.**
- 4. Use the **Sample OpEd** to write a piece in your local press.**

Action Tool Kit Contents

1 CD with two folders:

- Sample Letters & Action Documents
- Background Data & Reports

Sample Letters & Action Documents

- Your Legislators' Contact Info (customized by school site)- white paper
- Generic Parent Letter (with blank lines)- white paper
- Generic Parent Letter (sample, filled out) – orange paper
- Parent Letter for Legislators (in English & Spanish)- orange paper
- Parent Letter for Governor (in English & Spanish)- green paper
- Afterschool Staff Letter for Legislators/ Governor- hot pink paper
- Phone Script for Calling your Legislator- yellow paper
- Talking Points- light blue paper
- Community Petition- white cardstock
- Sample Press Release- lilac paper
- Sample OpEd- salmon paper
- Kids Take Action Guide- white paper

Background Data & Reports (Electronic Only)

- Why Afterschool- The Case for Afterschool
- NJ State Poll on Afterschool- Monmouth
- Outcomes Linked to High Quality Afterschool- Vandell
- Research Findings—Benefits of Afterschool
- New Jersey After 3 Year 3 Evaluation Study- Executive Summary
- One Page Description of New Jersey After 3
- All Legislators for Each Program
- Why Expanding New Jersey After 3 Makes Sense to Taxpayers