

New Jersey After 3 FY 2010 Budget Talking Points

I. Introduction

- Thank the Legislator for the opportunity to meet and hear your concerns.
- Introduce yourself and your agency. Give them your mission statement and one or two sentences that describe what you do, what communities you serve, and how many children and families you serve.

II. State the Issue and Your Concerns

- 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.
- This reduction is inconsistent with the budget's stated goal of protecting children and the State's most vulnerable. It is also inconsistent with the State's crime prevention efforts outlined in the 'Safe Streets' initiative.
- Describe the potential impact on your organization if your New Jersey After 3 programs were reduced by 27% or totally eliminated. How many jobs lost? How many kids would be back on the streets?
- Ask them to consider rolling the cut back so that children won't lose access.

III. Why Afterschool is Important

- A recent Monmouth University poll found that 9 in 10 New Jersey residents believe that afterschool programs are important with over two-thirds (67%) stating they believed afterschool programs were "very important".
- Afterschool programs provide four broad public benefits, they:
 1. **Keep Kids Safe** during the hours of 3pm to 6pm, the most dangerous hours for children;
 2. **Expand Student Learning Time**, providing kids with tutoring, homework help, and academic enrichment activities;
 3. **Promote Positive Youth Development** by exposing kids to the arts, volunteerism and nutrition and fitness programs;
 4. **Supporting Working Families** by providing families the opportunity to enter the workforce or re-enter the workforce by offering a safe, structured and supportive environment for their children.

IV. New Jersey After 3 Delivers Measurable Results

A. Program Results.

- A three-year independent evaluation of New Jersey After 3 revealed that New Jersey After 3 achieved significant success in several areas including: homework completion; achieving better grades; reading and writing; math; and, computer skills.
- This study follows several national studies that have demonstrated that high quality afterschool programs like New Jersey After 3 produce significant gains in student test scores, reduce juvenile at-risk behavior and increase high school graduation rates.

B. Return on Investment.

- New Jersey After 3 and its network of partners have successfully leveraged over \$27 million in additional investment in New Jersey After 3 programs, a rate of return to the State of over 40%.
- National studies document that high quality afterschool programs like New Jersey After 3 deliver \$3 dollars in public benefit for every \$1 dollar invested.
- It was also found that for every at-risk child steered clear of the juvenile justice system the taxpayers save between \$1.7 million and \$2.3 million dollars.

C. Cost Effectiveness

- On a per-pupil, per-day basis, state funding for New Jersey After 3 is roughly one-third of the average per-pupil, per-day cost of other high-quality programs around the country.
- The cost per student has dropped each year over the last 4 years as New Jersey After 3 finds cost-efficiencies and innovations that allow the program to accomplish more.
- Additionally, our administrative costs have decreased each year with our most recent audited administrative costs at just over 5%.

IV. Summary

By every measure, New Jersey After 3 has delivered real value to the State, children & families, and the communities that we serve. Our students have demonstrated real gains because of our work, we continue significant local private funding and are well positioned for future federal support, our administrative costs are low and we have kept children and communities safe. Ask them to roll back the reduction so that no children will lose access to the program.