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DT: February 9, 2009

TO: Mark Valli  
President & CEO  
NJ After 3

FR: Patrick Murray  
Director  
Monmouth University Polling Institute

RE: New Jersey state poll on After-School Programs

The Monmouth University Polling Institute conducted a telephone survey of New Jersey residents in February 2009 on the importance of after school programs. The Institute was happy to be able to offer its services at no charge.

The poll found widespread public support for having access to after-school programs available for all children in New Jersey. Overall, 9-in-10 state residents think such access is important, including an overwhelming majority of 67% who say that it is *very important* for all school-age children in New Jersey to have access to safe, structured and affordable after-school programs. Another 22% consider it somewhat important. Few residents say this is not too (4%) or not at all (5%) important.

Residents of the Garden State's cities (76%) and suburbs (65%) agree that universal access to these programs is very important. Also, 64% of non-parents join 74% of parents in saying it is very important that after-school programs are available for all school-age children.

Readers should note that the poll question did not pose any tradeoffs about providing these programs. It asked generally about access to after-school programs, and found that the public places strong and widespread importance on such access.

The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute with 803 New Jersey adults from February 2-8, 2009. The results have a margin of error of  $\pm 3.5$  percent.

## POLL RESULTS

(\* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

In general, how important is it that all school-age children in New Jersey have access to safe, structured and affordable after-school programs – is this very, somewhat, not too, or not at all important?

	TOTAL	Registered Voter		Party ID			Gender		Race	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Black & Hisp
Very important	<b>67%</b>	68%	65%	81%	59%	56%	59%	75%	62%	85%
Somewhat important	<b>22%</b>	21%	27%	15%	24%	30%	27%	16%	25%	9%
Not too important	<b>4%</b>	5%	1%	2%	5%	7%	5%	4%	6%	1%
Not at all important	<b>5%</b>	5%	4%	2%	8%	6%	6%	4%	6%	2%
(VOL) Don't Know	<b>2%</b>	2%	3%	0%	4%	0%	3%	1%	2%	3%
Sample size	<b>803</b>	721	82	261	309	178	390	413	640	108

	TOTAL	Education			Age			Children under 18	
		HS or less	Some Coll	Coll grad	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No
Very important	<b>67%</b>	71%	68%	61%	77%	67%	59%	74%	64%
Somewhat important	<b>22%</b>	19%	23%	25%	19%	21%	25%	15%	25%
Not too important	<b>4%</b>	4%	1%	7%	3%	3%	7%	2%	5%
Not at all important	<b>5%</b>	5%	4%	5%	0%	6%	7%	6%	4%
(VOL) Don't Know	<b>2%</b>	1%	3%	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Sample size	<b>803</b>	247	173	373	106	312	368	239	555

	TOTAL	Income			Region			Community Type		
		Under \$50K	\$50K to \$100K	\$100K+	North	Central	South	Urban	Stable town	Expanding suburb
Very important	<b>67%</b>	77%	65%	66%	69%	64%	67%	76%	64%	65%
Somewhat important	<b>22%</b>	17%	21%	23%	21%	24%	19%	18%	24%	21%
Not too important	<b>4%</b>	3%	5%	4%	3%	6%	5%	3%	3%	6%
Not at all important	<b>5%</b>	3%	5%	6%	4%	6%	5%	2%	5%	6%
(VOL) Don't Know	<b>2%</b>	0%	4%	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%	3%	2%
Sample size	<b>803</b>	199	260	225	331	199	254	119	313	357

The poll was conducted and analyzed by the Monmouth University Polling Institute. The telephone interviews were collected by Braun Research on February 2-8, 2009 with a statewide random sample 803 adult residents. For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups, such as separate figures reported by gender or party identification, are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.