

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the state of Colorado stands firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.
- Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults.
- Engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

WHEREAS, Colorado Afterschool Partnership has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, Lights On Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 28th 2021, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities.

WHEREAS, more than 28 million children in the U.S. have parents who work outside the home, and 7.7 million children have no place to go after school. In Colorado, for every 1 child in an afterschool program, 5 more children are waiting to get in leaving 145,009 children alone and unsupervised between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights.

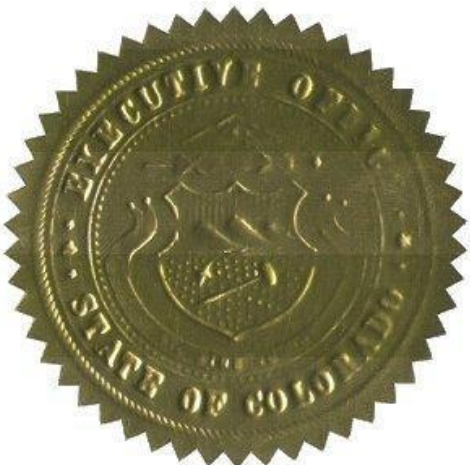
WHEREAS, the state of Colorado's top priority is the health and safety of all young people and will continue to explore learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the state of Colorado, do hereby proclaim October 28, 2021, as

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY

in the state of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the state of Colorado, this twenty-eighth day of October, 2021



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor