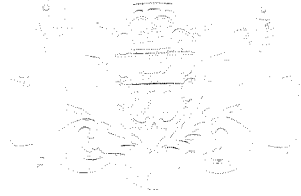


Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

LIGHTS ON AFTER SCHOOL DAY

October 22, 2009

WHEREAS, The citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they: 1.) Provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills. 2.) Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends. 3.) 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. 4.) Engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 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

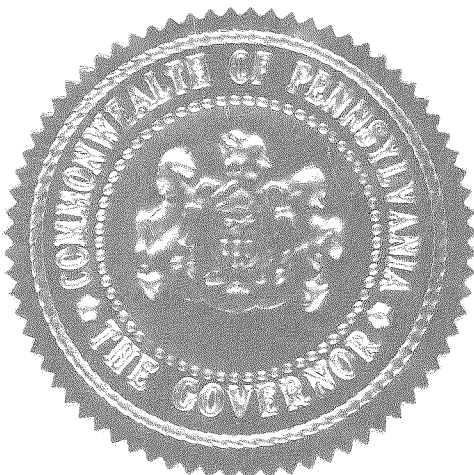
WHEREAS, Lights on Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 22, 2009, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and

WHEREAS, more than 28 million children in the U.S. have parents who work outside the home, and 14.3 million children have no place to go after school; and

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; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy.

THEREFORE, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 22, 2009 LIGHTS ON AFTER SCHOOL DAY in Pennsylvania. It is my hope that Pennsylvania can continue to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children afterschool.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the city of Harrisburg, on this ninth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

Edward G. Rendell

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor