



The following information is also available on [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org).

## Take Ten!

Welcome to *Take Ten!* – A monthly bulletin designed to keep you informed. We invite you to take 10 minutes a month to update yourself with what's going on in the network and the afterschool/youth development field.

April 2009

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## THE SPOTLIGHT!

### Afterschool and Students with Special Needs

Afterschool programs can provide important benefits to all students, including those who have learning, developmental and physical disabilities. Students in afterschool programs have better grades and behavior, increased self-esteem and more positive attitudes about school. For students with special needs, afterschool programs provide a level of individualized attention that they might not receive during the school day. For more information on this SPOTLIGHT!, please [click here](#).

## PSAYDN UPDATE

Stay informed – Here's what's going on.

### Afterschool for All Challenge “A Day on The Hill”

PSAYDN staff joined a delegation of afterschool leaders and youth at the 8th annual *Afterschool for All Challenge* on April 27 and 28 in Washington, D.C. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, the event gave afterschool supporters across the country the chance to meet with lawmakers, network with other afterschool advocates, and learn from leading experts in the field. The first day of the *Challenge* included panels and forums on a range of topics, including what's expected with implementation of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* and reauthorization of the *No Child Left Behind Act*. The second day of the *Challenge* began with a "Breakfast of Champions" on Capitol Hill. Following the breakfast, participants spent the remainder of the day meeting with their senators and representatives to share their afterschool experiences.

## PROMISING PRACTICES – PROVEN STRATEGIES

Learn about what is going on locally and nationally.

### Pennsylvania

Milton Hershey School's Middle School program activities help students discover their unique individual talents. The objective for Middle Division students is to ease the transition to early adolescence and give them the essential skills to thrive in the Senior Division. The Middle Division offers an array of out-of-school time arts programs that include band, chorus, drama, dance and more. To give students the opportunity to play a sport after school, some of the programs are scheduled in the morning. Students opt to be involved in sports or an activity program for two hours each day after school. Some of the after school programs include geocaching, horsemanship, Latino club, football, cheerleading, and Tae Kwon Do. For more information on the Milton Hershey afterschool programs for their Middle School and High School students, [click here](#).

### Around the Country

High school students participating in Chicago's After School Matters (ASM) program have higher class attendance, lower course failure rates and higher graduation rates than students who do not participate in the program. The Afterschool Matters program offers paid internships in the arts, technology, sports, and communications to teenagers in some of the city's schools, while Chicago teens take part in enriching activities that offer skills that transmit to the workplace. Through productive relationships with peers and adults, they are exposed to educational and career opportunities in their neighborhoods and the city. By coordinating city resources and focusing the programs around public high schools, parks and libraries, ASM enriches the lives of teens and helps to revive Chicago's communities. To learn more about After School Matters and their programs, visit their [website](#).

## RECOMMENDED READING

Check out these recent articles, research and reviews on afterschool and youth development issues.

**Afterschool Benefits Kids With Special Needs** Children with activity limitations are often referred to as having special needs, or being disabled or differently-abled. This simply means that they are unable to participate fully in age-appropriate activities because of chronic physical, mental, emotional or behavioral conditions. To read more on this, and for the rest of this article, [click here](#).

**Expanding and Enhancing Summer Learning Opportunities in New York State** Summer learning opportunities are a critical component of a comprehensive and coordinated system of youth programs that contribute to the learning and healthy development of young people. This brief articulates the value and impact of high-quality summer learning opportunities; spotlights exemplary programs already operating in New York State; and recommends strategies to expand and enhance these types of programs. [Click here](#) to read this brief.

**The Role of Afterschool Programs in Increasing High School Graduation Rates in New York State** (Spring 2009) The afterschool community can play an important role in building a youth-serving system in New York State that keeps young people engaged in school and on track to graduation from high school. This policy brief provides an overview of the benefits to high school graduation; describes the New York State context; links afterschool to factors that improve high school graduation rates; and recommends a number of policies that can forge a stronger partnership between schools and afterschool programs in addressing this issue. For more on this brief, [click here](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars; you don't want to miss these events.

- **5/6/09-5/8/09 Pennsylvania Partners 25th Annual Employment, Training & Education Conference** This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Annual Employment, Training & Education Conference, a time to celebrate the success of one of the nation's longest continuously running state workforce conferences and focus on innovating for the future. This year there is an additional round of knowledge sessions to offer more than 60 workshops and clinics with speakers representing local, state and national agencies and the private sector. The conference will be at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA. Click here for the [tentative agenda](#). And to register, [click here](#).
- **5/7/09 Champion of Youth 2009 Reception-** The Boys and Girls Club of Northeastern PA is sponsoring the *Champion of Youth 2009 Reception* at the Glenmaura National Golf Club May 7, 2009 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join them in honoring five individuals that truly make a difference in the lives of local children! The event will include a mix and mingle cocktail party format, congratulating the 2009 honorees, amazing food selections and more. For more information on this event, or to register, [click here](#).
- **5/9/09- 5/28/09 The Center for Youth Development (CYD) PA Training Classes-** The CYD at the United Way of Southeastern will be offering a late spring training calendar with a broad range of topics for youth-serving programs and agencies. A sample of the training titles include Project-Based Learning, What's Working Now: Tools for Evaluating Your Youth Mentoring Program, Youth Leadership & Conversations with Leaders, and Ready, Set, Goals! For details on all of the trainings and to register please visit: <http://citi.uwsepa.org>. Or contact Preston Beckley, Senior Program Coordinator of the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania at 215-665-2514 [pbeckley@uwsepa.org](mailto:pbeckley@uwsepa.org) for more information.
- **5/19/09 Unlocking Resources: Parent Leadership is the Key-** Join the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Support Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, a unique educational event, and become an integral part in the continuation and expansion of the strengths-based Family Support concept. For more information and to register please [click here](#).
- **5/28/09 Northeastern PA Afterschool Regional Summit –** Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network, the Northeastern PA Afterschool Summit will take place on Thursday, May 28, 2009. The Summit will be held at the Scranton Boys and Girls Club of Northeastern PA, and will connect community leaders, raise awareness on the importance of afterschool and youth development programs of Pennsylvania's children, youth and families. To register for the Summit visit [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Scheduled PSAYDN Meetings

**Steering Committee Meeting:** May 14, 2009; 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – at Center for Schools and Communities 275, Grandview Avenue, Suite 200, Camp Hill, PA 17011

**Policy/Communications Committee Meeting:** May 18, 2009; 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m – at Center for Schools and Communities, 275 Grandview Avenue, Suite 200, Camp Hill, PA 17011

## ADVOCACY CORNER

The U. S. House and Senate have passed their respective versions of the fiscal year 2010 budget resolution. Both measures support President Obama's proposed budget framework and priorities. For example, they provide the reserve fund to pay for health care reform: however, the resolutions do not specify how the fund will be financed. The measures also provide a framework to invest in education, both early childhood education and postsecondary education.

The House budget resolution assumes domestic discretionary (excluding international) funding would be increased by 3.5 percent above 2009 levels, taking into account inflation and factoring out a must-do increase for the decennial Census and a technical increase for a Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loan program. The Senate budget resolution assumes an increase of just 1.5 percent over last year's levels, taking into account inflation and factoring out a must-do increase for the decennial Census and a technical increase for a Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loan program. The President proposed an increase of 3.9 percent for domestic discretionary programs, making the same adjustments for inflation, the Census and FHA loan guarantees.

Once both chambers of Congress agree on a budget resolution, the House and Senate could separately begin crafting appropriations bills for FFY 2010.

The **PSAYDN** is a collaborative effort among state, regional and local partners. Its purpose is to promote sustainable, high-quality out-of-school time youth development programs through advocacy and capacity building to enhance the welfare of Pennsylvania's children, youth and families. To learn more about PSAYDN, please contact:

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