



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.

March 2008

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## THE SPOTLIGHT!

**Boosting Graduation Rate** – Research shows that every 29 seconds, a student will give up on school, resulting in more than one million high school dropouts every year. Reasons for dropout can vary from learning difficulties to student disengagement, but whatever the reason may be, the Ad Council believes that a little “boost” from a significant person can go a long way. Boost is a campaign launched in 2006 to encourage students to stay in school and graduate. The campaign follows the stories of 10 seniors across the country that are documenting their experiences and struggling to finish high school. Boost serves as a hub, facilitating conversations and directing its audience to visit its website to collect support for struggling students. Teen viewers learn about the experiences of these seniors and have the opportunity to express the challenges they are facing. Boost promotes peer to peer advocacy, allows youth to voice themselves and provides resources and help for those considering dropping out. It also provides parents with resources and advice on how to get involved. For more information about Boost, visit [www.boostup.org](http://www.boostup.org). For more dropout statistics visit [www.silentepidemic.org](http://www.silentepidemic.org).

## PSAYDN UPDATE

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

- **Advocacy Now** – Last month, PSAYDN held a session entitled, “Understanding the State and Federal Budgets” which provided participants with an overview of the state and federal budget proposals for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. This session is the first of the series entitled *Advocacy Now: Tools and Resources on How You Can Be a Voice for Children and Youth* offered by PSAYDN and is intended to help participants garner public support for their programs. Participants commented, in a survey following the session, that the information received was “extremely important information” to get out to those who work in afterschool programs. For more information about upcoming *Advocacy Now* sessions or to view the past session, visit [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org).
- **Celebrating Success** – On March 4, 2008, PSAYDN held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting and Reception in Harrisburg, PA. The meeting featured entertainment from Nayo's Wototo, a local African drumming youth program, youth

speakers from the Chester Youth Collaborative Youth Council and closing remarks from Thierry Malley, State Director of Pennsylvania Area Council of Boys and Girls Clubs.

- **Looking Back and Moving Forward** – PSAYDN recently published *A Progress Report to the Community* which highlights the work that PSAYDN and its partners have done in the past 3 years to build strong state leadership and a policy agenda to increase the awareness, sustainability and quality of afterschool programs in Pennsylvania. The report contains information about the power of afterschool programs and how PSAYDN connects people, creates opportunities and changes lives. To read or download a copy of this report, visit [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org).

## PROMISING PRACTICES – PROVEN STRATEGIES

Learn about what is going on locally and nationally.

### Pennsylvania

Supporting Students to Success - The Student Services Symposium, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, will be held on May 20, 2008 at the Hilton Harrisburg in Harrisburg, PA. This annual symposium will focus on wellness and resiliency and highlight strategies to help schools help students graduate and reach their career goals. Participants will receive information and resources on topics such as effective use of school and community resources to remove barriers to learning, approaches to infuse resiliency into schools' work with students and latest research on effective program models. For more information about the symposium, visit <http://www.center-school.org>.

### Around the Country

No Support Voiced For Bush Afterschool Proposal - The U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education held a congressional hearing on March 11, 2008 to discuss the Bush Administration Fiscal Year 2009 proposal to cut funding for afterschool programs. The proposal intends to reduce 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers budget by \$281 million and convert it into a voucher program. When asked by Representative Hirono (D-HI) whether or not witnesses thought that the voucher program was an attempt to "fix a problem that's not broken," Michael J. Carroll, Chief of West Goshen Township Police and a member of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Pennsylvania, LaDonna Gamble, Interim Project Director of Flint Community Schools Bridges to the Future Program, Priscilla Little, Project Manager of the Harvard Family Research Project and Theresa Kough, Education Associate at the Delaware Department of Education unanimously agreed. Committee members attending the hearing did not doubt the efficacy of afterschool programs but stressed the importance of advocacy work. Representative Davis (D-CA) stated budget cuts are made because Congress has other "necessities" to fund and recommended that they continue to promote afterschool programs and make it a necessity. To view the complete hearing, visit the House Committee on Education and Labor website at <http://edlabor.house.gov/hearings/ecese-2008-03-11.shtml>.

## RECOMMENDED READING

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

- **The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts** – This report discusses the results of a polling conducted among high school dropouts and proposes steps that schools, families, communities and the government can take to improve the rate of graduation. To read report, <http://www.civicenterprises.net/pdfs/thesilentepidemic3-06.pdf>
- **Dropout Risk Factors and Exemplary Programs: A Technical Report** – This paper examines 44 different studies focused on school dropout and identifies key risk factors. The study also identifies quality programs already proven to address these risk factors. To read report, [http://www.dropoutprevention.org/resource/major\\_reports/communities\\_in\\_schools/Dropout Risk Factors and Exemplary Programs FINAL 5-16-07.pdf](http://www.dropoutprevention.org/resource/major_reports/communities_in_schools/Dropout_Risk_Factors_and_Exemplary_Programs_FINAL_5-16-07.pdf)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- **4/15/08, 4/18/08 and 4/21/08 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Regional Trainings** – These trainings are sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and will be held on 4/15/08 in Pittsburgh, PA and 4/18/08 in Harrisburg, PA and 4/21/08 in King of Prussia, PA. For more information about these, visit [www.21stccclc.org](http://www.21stccclc.org).
- **4/15/08 Advocacy Now: Tools and Resources on How to Be a Voice for Children and Youth** – This *Advocacy Now* session entitled “Building Effective Legislative Relationships: Tools and Actions to Undertake Now” is sponsored by PSAYDN, in partnership with the Afterschool Alliance and will be held online from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to register for the event, visit [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org).
- **4/30/08 – 5/2/08 Coalition for Community Schools National Conference 2008** – This national conference is sponsored by the Coalition for Community Schools. The event will be held at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower in Portland, OR. For more information about the event, visit [www.communityschools.org](http://www.communityschools.org).
- **4/30/08 – 5/3/08 Best of Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Conference** – This conference is hosted by the Rescue Social Change Group and will be held at the Palm Springs Convention Center and Wyndham Palm Springs Hotel in Palm Springs, CA. For more information about the event, visit [www.boostconference.com](http://www.boostconference.com).

## ADVOCACY CORNER

Sustain Afterschool Funding by Getting Involved – Here’s a tip to help steer you in the right direction.

**Campaign Call to Action:** As detailed in the *Costing-Out Study*, authorized and funded by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the current state funding system does not provide adequate or equitable funding to schools to meet state standards and therefore does not ensure a quality education for every child. This week, promote school finance reform and become a voice for high-quality public education by joining the Pennsylvania School Funding Campaign. For more information about the campaign, visit [www.paschoolfunding.org](http://www.paschoolfunding.org). To read more about the *Costing-Out Study*, [http://www.pde.state.pa.us/stateboard\\_ed/lib/stateboard\\_ed/Costing-OutStudyRevisedFinalReport12-10-07.pdf](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/stateboard_ed/lib/stateboard_ed/Costing-OutStudyRevisedFinalReport12-10-07.pdf).

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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