



*Afterschool Programs....Keep Kids Safe, Inspire Learning and Help Working Families*

## Public Support for Increasing State Funding for Afterschool



An April 2005 statewide public opinion poll conducted by a leading research firm, Global Strategy Group, demonstrates a public will for increasing state funding for afterschool programs. The phone survey of 801 Pennsylvania voters found that legislators and government officials are on solid ground when they support increasing state funding for afterschool programs across Pennsylvania. The poll showed overwhelming voter support for increased funding and confirms the public's feelings that afterschool programs are essential for kids, families and communities.

## Key Findings of the Poll Results

- Among voters statewide, Education is the top issue. While Pittsburgh area voters think *Taxes Generally* is the top issue; Education is still important with Pittsburgh area voters followed only by *Economy and Jobs* as a priority issue.
- Among voters statewide, the quality of public schools remains the top problem for Pennsylvania's children. This remains true for voters in the Pittsburgh area. About 24% of voters think the governor and state government should address this issue.
- Three out-of-four voters statewide support increasing funding for after-school programs; and over a half support increasing funding for afterschool programs even if it means increasing taxes.
- In the Pittsburgh area, this number is slightly lower at 69% of voters; however, still over half of voters support increasing funding for afterschool programs even if it means an increase in taxes.
- Statewide, 84% of voters think afterschool programs help keep children safe. Similarly, 81% of voters in the Pittsburgh area think afterschool programs help to keep children safe.
- While, nearly one-half of voters across the state believe that tutoring and homework assistance is the most important activity offered at afterschool programs; voters overwhelmingly (78%) still want afterschool programs to be more than just a few more hours of school.
- This is also true in the Pittsburgh area, where the majority of voters (81%) also want afterschool programs to be more than just a few more hours of school.
- The majority (80%) of voters statewide, think afterschool programs play a very important role in keeping kids safe and out of trouble – this is especially true for parents.
- Statewide, over half (58%) of the voters think there are not enough quality afterschool programs in Pennsylvania. This is also true in the Pittsburgh area, where over half (59%) of the voters also think there are not quality afterschool programs.

For more details on this poll, please visit [www.philasafesound.org](http://www.philasafesound.org). For more information about the Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network, visit [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org).