

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



## PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 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; and

WHEREAS, these programs provide invaluable support to working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has provided significant leadership in 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, 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; and

WHEREAS, all afterschool programs engage students, including programs that provide hands-on, real world science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) projects to help build vital twenty-first century skills, cultivate an interest in STEM, and offer innovative ways for students to connect STEM to their lives and communities; and

WHEREAS, afterschool programs can provide holistic support of the whole child and their development of social and emotional competencies such as problem solving, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 26, 2023 to be

### LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY

in recognition of the invaluable role afterschool programs have in providing quality education and supporting our working families. I encourage all citizens to support the efforts of afterschool programs in the development of our Commonwealth's children.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this second day of October two thousand twenty-three, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-eighth.

Governor Josh Shapiro