

Vermont's after school program is designed to be an out of school trauma informed prevention and support program for children and their communities. The development of the program included hearing from after school leaders from Chile, Finland, Iceland who visited with legislators. Each country has identified the importance of robust community, neighborhood and family engagement with kids during the 3-6 o'clock and summer out of school hours when they are most vulnerable to risky behaviors. Health and Welfare, Health, Human Services Committees and Education Committees in House and Senate as well as the administration worked to identify funding for out of school organizations that complement and coordinate with school-based programs. Local Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs, Child Care Centers and other organizations are important components for statewide implementation of coordinated out of school experiences for kids in Vermont. Out of school activities may occur in school. The design and intent are distinctly different from curricular based activities. The importance of mixed-use delivery cannot be understated. It is critical to reach every child's need for successful outcomes. A separate source of funding is key to maintain the program, the coordination and direction of the after-school program. Prevention funding from the cannabis tax was identified for after-school programs. Having an independent source of funding was deliberate. It will ensure that kids' out of school activities are creative, directed toward trauma informed prevention of risky behaviors.