

ZAP THE GAP!



With Afterschool
& Summer Learning



SUPPORT STATE FUNDING OF \$2.5 MILLION IN THE EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (ELO) SPECIAL FUND

Quality afterschool and summer learning programs keep kids safe & healthy, inspire learners, help working families, and support Vermont's vision for education. Vermont has the lowest level of low-income children enrolled in afterschool in the entire nation. Help to **zap all the gaps**—the achievement gap, opportunity gap, geographic gap, and homework gap—by supporting a \$2.5 million appropriation to the ELO Special Fund.

Vermont currently has no dedicated state funding to ensure that afterschool and summer learning programs are available and accessible to all.

The **ELO Special Fund** was passed in 2015 as part of Act 48, which included language establishing a state fund for ELOs. The purpose of the ELO Special Fund is to expand access to programs that serve preK-12 children and youth outside the school day on a regular basis, including before and after school, school vacation weeks, and summer.

More than 21,000 Vermont K-12 youth are enrolled in afterschool, but 22,000+ are waiting for an available program.

An annual appropriation of \$2.5 million would help to ensure that **all high-need communities** in Vermont get the support they need to make sure that children, youth, and families have access to quality afterschool and summer learning programs.

Vermont Child Poverty Council Report December 2015

“The Council believes that improving access to high quality afterschool programming is essential to mitigate the achievement gap between students from low- and high-income families. It urges the committees of jurisdiction to investigate the link between high quality afterschool opportunities and academic achievement for students. The Council further requests that the General Assembly as a whole provide funding to the Expanded Learning Opportunity Special Fund to expand afterschool programs in all communities, and particularly those with a high percentage of students from low-income families.”

Governor’s Pathways From Poverty Council November 2015

“Provide all students with extended day or after school program opportunities. These programs allow for creativity and diversity in learning, incorporating the Common Core State Standards and addressing Personal Learning Plans, above and beyond current sports programs. They also provide homework assistance and after school snacks, necessary supports for some of our struggling students. It is recommended that school districts receive financial support to either create or continue with programs of this nature.”

Vermont Early Childhood Alliance Agenda January 2016

“Quality afterschool and summer learning programs keep kids safe, inspire learners, and help working families. The Alliance supports Vermont Afterschool’s “Zap the Gap” campaign to create a state appropriation for the Expanded Learning Opportunities Special Fund, which if funded can provide grants to increase access to these programs, particularly for low-income children and families.”

PreK-16 Council Working Group on Expanded Learning Opportunities December 2015

“If eliminating the academic achievement gap, ensuring equity in educational opportunities, and fulfilling the vision of Vermont’s Education Quality Standards are indeed priorities for the state, then it is critical that the Legislature and Administration take leadership with investment and action on this issue by following the recommendations [detailed in the report] and allocating state funding to work toward providing access to Expanded Learning Opportunities for the children and youth in every Vermont community.”



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Vermont Afterschool is a statewide nonprofit dedicated to supporting and sustaining innovative learning opportunities that extend beyond the school day for all Vermont’s children and youth.