



BRIDGES

INTRODUCTION

Show Off Your Summer Successes with a Site Visit!

Take advantage of the success of your summer program and organize a site visit to showcase important work your program is doing!

Site visits are a fantastic way for new and established programs alike to build up relationships with elected officials, business and community leaders, town council members, school officials, and anyone else you want as a champion. Hosting a site visit is one of the best ways to show them, firsthand, that afterschool works.

For tips on planning a successful site visit, check out this [blog post](#) and [resources](#) from [Afterschool Alliance](#). And don't forget to maximize the impact of the visit through photographs and engaging the press. You can also check out this blog post, [Students Shine in Summer Learning](#), by Abby Draper, Afterschool Leadership Circle Summer Intern, penned after a recent site visit to a Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative program, as an example of how to continue to spread the word about the success of your programs after the visit.

Best,
Elana Rosenberg

LOCAL & NATIONAL POLICY UPDATES

House Appropriations Committee Cuts Afterschool by \$191 Million

By Erik Peterson, Afterschool Alliance

The full House Appropriations Committee met for a marathon markup of the FY2018 education-funding bill on July 19, starting at 9:30 a.m. and lasting late into the evening. The FY2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (LHHS) Appropriations Act sets funding levels for all federal education, human services, and health and labor programs—including the [21st Century Community Learning Centers](#) initiative, which provides federal funds leveraged by local school-community partnerships to provide quality afterschool and summer learning programs.

The Committee voted to approve the House LHHS FY2018 spending bill on a party line vote of 28 – 22. The bill includes a \$191 million cut to 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool funding. The cut brings funding for local afterschool and summer learning programs below the current authorized level to the lowest level of federal afterschool funding since 2007 and means **approximately 192,000 children could lose access to quality afterschool and summer learning programs next year**. An [updated table](#) shows how the proposed cut to afterschool will be felt in all 50 states. Read the full blog post, [here](#).

12 Rhode Island Schools Vie for Chance to become their State’s 3 Personalized Learning Labs

A student-led effort to establish a hiking trail on a woodsy campus; a multi-grade high school English class designed for students and by students—from the daily content to the annual tests. One-on-one technology coaching for teachers, built into their schedule.

These are just a few of the ways public schools in Rhode Island are testing out a statewide effort to personalize learning for all students and train educators to embrace a “paradigm shift” in the way lessons are delivered. [Read the full article here](#).

RESOURCES

Understanding Social and Emotional Learning: A Quick Guide

To improve education, California is asking schools to improve the way they meet the emotional as well as the academic needs of students.

Among the strategies is what’s known as [social and emotional learning](#), which refers to an organized method of teaching students behavioral expectations, self-management, and relationship skills. This FAQ explains what social and emotional learning is, why schools say it matters, and which school districts are paying the most attention to the concept. [Read more here](#).

The Power of Partnership with the Business Community

There is tremendous power in the 10.2 million children attending afterschool programs, but programs face tight budgets and limited capacity—challenges that could be addressed through business and afterschool partnerships. Establishing a partnership may be even easier than you think, especially using these six tips. Are you interested in partnering with the business community? [Read more here](#).

RESEARCH & NEWS

Have something to share? Email Elana.Rosenberg@uwri.org to have your news included in BRIDGES!

“Nothing About Us Without Us” – Tapping into Youth Expertise to make Youth Policy From National Afterschool Association

Earlier this month, NAA led a delegation of 22 afterschool leaders to Helsinki, Finland and Tallinn, Estonia. This marked the organization’s third year of connecting NAA members to their colleagues in other countries, and if there is one thing that is consistent in all of these places, it is the premium placed on youth engagement and participation. Despite the fact that the U.S. is the only United Nations member state that is not a party to the Rights of the Child treaty, there are some strong examples of youth engagement efforts that mirror those of our global partners. NAA featured one in its most recent issue of *Afterschool Today* magazine. [Read more about the Intergenerational Change Initiative.](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON ADVOCACY

Afterschool Helps English Language Learners Thrive

Students learn new skills and concepts every day in school—but learning comes with extra challenges for more than 4 million English language learner (ELL) students who attend public schools. Out-of-school time programs nationwide play a central role in helping ELL students thrive. Learn how afterschool professionals offer these students the support they need to excel in school. Read the full article [here](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON SUMMER

Resource from The National Summer Learning Association

The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) serves as a national hub for a diverse coalition of national partners committed to keeping all kids learning, fed and safe during the summer. For more than 20-years, the NSLA has built a field around this issue, recognizing and disseminating what works, convening key decision makers, and building capacity for quality practice. NSLA’s [Research in Brief series](#) profiles key studies about summer learning and highlights the findings in easy-to-understand language. These briefs can help inform the choices that parents, program providers and policymakers make when selecting and designing summer programs for youth. Check out NSLA’s research and policy briefs, program improvement resources and support services by [clicking here](#).

FUNDING & PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Back to School Celebration Announcement

To encourage more exhibitors at the August 19 Back to School Celebrations, Back to School RI is waiving the \$35 registration fee. Interested in being an exhibitor? To become an exhibitor at one of the 12 Back to School sites in Providence (5 locations), Pawtucket, Cumberland, Warwick, Newport, Woonsocket, Central Falls or Cranston, contact Grace Gonzalez at ggonzalez@nhpri.org.

NMEF Grant Opportunity

Request for Proposals: Transformative Education Governance

Deadline: Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. EDT

Through its grantmaking, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation seeks to build the capacity of local communities to transform their school systems into high-performing, equitable, student-centered bodies that prepare all learners for college and career. Over the past several years, the Foundation has supported the efforts of school districts to adopt student-centered learning practices. However, as we grapple with how to scale, sustain, and spread such efforts, it has become increasingly clear that we must also consider the critical role education governance plays in this work.



Helping districts make the shift from traditional school systems that work well for some, to flexible and student-centered schools systems that work for all is a complicated endeavor—a shift that can only be accomplished with significant changes to current education governance purposes, practices, and policies.

The Nellie Mae Education Foundation is pleased to release a request for proposals for its [Transformative Education Governance Grant Program](#) focused on creating new governance designs and refocusing governance on ensuring equitable access to student-centered learning. **The deadline for proposals is Thursday, September 14, 2017, at 12:00 p.m. EDT.**

In order to provide more clarity regarding the RFP, NMEF held a webinar on July 26. You can find a recording of the [webinar here](#), as well as on the NMEF [website](#). Answers to common questions will be collected in this [FAQ](#), also located on the website, and which will be updated periodically. A full RFP may be downloaded [here](#). Please direct your questions to Marcos Popovich at mpopovich@nmeffoundation.org.

Advancing Informal STEM Learning Grants

Deadline: Monday, November 6, 2017

[Request for Proposals](#)

This National Science Foundation program seeks to advance new approaches to and evidence-based understanding of the design and development of STEM learning opportunities for the public in informal environments; provide multiple pathways for broadening access to and engagement in STEM learning experiences; and advance innovative research on and assessment of STEM learning in informal environments. Grant information:

- Deadline: November 6, 2017
- Available: Maximum of \$3,000,000 over a period of up to five years
- Number of Awards: 60 to 85
- Eligibility Requirements: Institutions of higher education; nonprofit and for-profit organizations; and state and local governments.

STEM

Solar Eclipse on August 21

The eclipse on Monday afternoon, August 21st will be visible for most of the US. This is a great way to create some interest and engagement in STEM, and there are many, many free resources available at www.astrosociety.org/eclipse

Resources include maps of where and when eclipse viewing is possible, information of how eclipses happen, children's books, and links to live viewing through NASA.

Putting the Learner in the Center, Engaging Youth by Design

How can we truly understand learners' perspectives to fully engage youth in the design of our movements and programs? The [Bay Area STEM Ecosystem](#), along with [Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance](#) and [STEMOregon](#), recently gathered a few Ecosystems that actively seek out and incorporate youth voice to develop a list of best practices.

The STEM Ecosystem approach puts the learner at the center, but explicit effort is needed to actually incorporate youth ideas and views. Why spend this extra time and energy? Incorporating youth feedback can bring creativity and innovation to programs, and helps ensure other youth will find the topics and activities relevant. Furthermore, the youth involved in the program design will develop a range of 21st century skills, from leadership to communication.

Read the details of the group's collective insights [here](#). Key points include:

- Be aware of youth time and capacity.
- Propose concrete goals and give ownership.
- Consider involving "non-traditional" STEM-interested students.

Authentically involving youth can become a mutually beneficial endeavor that brings real meaning to communities. For more information, or to discuss further, contact Emily Dilger, PhD, at edilger@calacademy.org.



Upcoming Webinar: Building Community between Police and Youth

Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. EDT

[Registration Link](#)

Across the country, law enforcement officers and communities have been engaging in conversations about what it means to work together as a community. After school programs can play an important role in creating a safe and welcoming environment for these conversations to take place.



In this webinar, you will hear from a law enforcement officer and afterschool program director who work together to foster constructive relationships between youth and law enforcement. You will also learn from Police Athletic League how and why they're building community between youth and police and her suggestions from all speakers on how to build dialogue between these groups. Speakers include:

- **Darren Grimshaw**, Major, Burlington, IA Police Department
- **Jacalyn Swink**, PIECES Program Director, Burlington Community School District
- **Marcel Braithwaite**, Director of Community Engagement, Police Athletic League, Inc.
- **Elizabeth Tish**, Special Assistant to the Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance (Moderator)

Grant Writing Workshops at URI Providence Campus

Tuesday, August 22

Tuesday, August 29

Bob Cipriano, who previously held grant writing workshops at UWRI for prospective grantees, is holding more workshops at URI. The Grant Writing Workshops will be held on Aug. 22 and Aug. 29 at the downtown Providence URI campus. For more info, [please click here](#).

Save the Dates: Fall ALC Events

Please Note: This is a tentative calendar—times, dates and locations are subject to change, and additional opportunities are likely.

- **September 20**, 9:30—11:30am: ALC Membership Meeting: Policy Focus (at United Way of RI)
- **October 20**, 9:00am—1:00pm: Introduction to RIPQA (at United Way of RI)
- **October 27**, 8:00am—12:30pm: Lights on Afterschool Breakfast and Mini-Conference (at Sheraton Providence Airport Hotel)
 - Keynote presentation by Terry Peterson, PhD, Director, Afterschool and Community Learning Network, and Chairperson of Board of Directors, Afterschool Alliance
- **November 17**, 8:30am—1:30pm: RIPQA in Practice Mini-Conference (at United Way of RI and Tech Collective)
- **December 7**, 9:30—11:30am: ALC Membership Meeting (at United Way of RI)
- **December 8**: Regional Workshop: Woonsocket (time, subject, and location TBD)

If you are having trouble with any links, please contact Elana Rosenberg at elana.rosenberg@uwri.org or (401) 444-0658.