

Subject: Announcing the Tenth Annual Lights On Afterschool! on October 22, 2009

To: All LEAs
School District Superintendents
Charter School Chief Executive Officers
Career and Technical Education Executive Officers
Intermediate Unit Executive Directors

From: Mary I. Ramirez, Director
Bureau of Community and Student Services

Carmen M. Medina, Chief
Division of Student Services and Migrant Education

The 10th Annual Lights On Afterschool! will be held Thursday, October 22, 2009. Lights On Afterschool! is celebrated nationwide to call attention to the importance of after-school programs for America's children, families and communities. Lights On Afterschool! was launched in October 2000 with celebrations in more than 1,200 communities nationwide. This October 2009, over one million Americans will celebrate in more than 7,500 Lights On Afterschool! celebrations across the nation!

Afterschool programs provide a safe place for children where they benefit from academic and cultural enrichment and improved physical activity. Pennsylvania addresses the needs of our youth through a variety of afterschool programs such as Educational Assistance Program (EAP), Accountability Block Grant, K-12 Service Learning and 21st Century Community Learning Centers. The Pennsylvania Department of Education encourages any school district that provides afterschool programming to participate in this event. Whether you hold an open house or stage a countywide celebration, your participation in Lights On Afterschool! will demonstrate the importance of your work and highlight what is being done in Pennsylvania. Planning tools are available on the Afterschool Alliance website at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

Lights On Afterschool! is a project of the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to afterschool programs by 2010. The National Presenting Sponsor of Lights On Afterschool! is the C.S. Mott Foundation. The JCPenney Afterschool Fund is a National Sponsor of the event and additional support is provided by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Open Society Institute.