



# Georgia Afterschool Investment Council

## 2009 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- **Support maintaining the FY09 funding level (\$14 million) for the Afterschool Services Program through TANF to support employment of low-income families and provide opportunities for youth to participate in out-of-school time programs across Georgia.**
  - 23,000 low-income and at-risk youth participated in these afterschool programs last year.
  - Programs receiving funds provided a local or private match at an average of 2:1, providing Georgia with \$28 million in Maintenance of Effort funds.
  
- **Support the implementation of a Legislative Study Committee on afterschool and summer learning including specific issues of access, quality, professional development and evaluation.**
  - Only 37% of Georgia's voting parents agree that their state legislators are doing enough to ensure children and youth have access to high-quality afterschool experiences.
  - A Study Committee should make recommendations on how to better coordinate, expand, and improve affordable, high-quality out-of-school time programming in Georgia.
  
- **Support afterschool and child care subsidies to assist low-income working families and ensure children and youth have a safe and enriching place to go while their parents work.**
  - Subsidies helped approximately 54,000 low-income children and youth participate in child care and afterschool programs each month last year.
  - Waiting list figures over the past few years have ranged from 7,000 to 25,000 Georgia families.
  - Approximately 40% of subsidies are for school-age children.
  
- **Support a pilot program for schools to extend the school day to implement expanded learning options in order to improve student engagement in learning and achievement.**
  - Expanded Learning Time (ELT) allows schools and community partners to redesign the school day and to provide opportunities for art, music, project-based learning, and international education – subjects that engage and educate students in new ways.
  - Evaluations from KIPP schools and the Massachusetts ELT Initiative have found positive academic gains for students participating in expanded learning time programs that provide more time for academics and enrichment.
  
- **Support afterschool provider education, career advancement and retention by expanding DECAL education scholarships and incentives to providers serving school-age children. An educated and stable afterschool workforce is key to providing high-quality afterschool learning opportunities.**
  - In FY07, 735 early childhood providers received financial assistance to increase their education and 3,291 early childhood providers received compensation rewards for educational attainment.
  - Expanding scholarships and incentives to afterschool providers would encourage providers to increase their education level and remain in the field, thus building quality and stability in afterschool programs.