



# STATE OF NEBRASKA



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS,**

*The citizens across Nebraska stand firmly committed to supporting high-quality, school-based, and community-powered afterschool and summer programs because they:*

- *Provide innovative educational experiences promoting success in school and life. National and local research shows Nebraska's school-based afterschool and summer programs provide challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences that benefit participating youth; and*
- *Stimulate new school-community partnerships that engage community volunteers and partners in providing locally relevant, hands-on learning experiences; and*
- *Provide new opportunities to engage youth in career exploration and entrepreneurial activities; and*
- *Strengthen Nebraska communities by involving students, parents, community organizations, businesses, teachers, and adult volunteers and mentors in the development of our youth; and*
- *Support efforts by community leaders across the state to get Nebraska back to work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring that children are safe and engaged in productive activities after the regular school day and school year ends and parents are at work; and*

**WHEREAS,**

*"Lights on Afterschool," a national celebration of afterschool programs, will be held this year at locations around the country and across Nebraska on October 28th. These community-led events, both in person and virtual, will showcase the importance of quality afterschool and summer programs in the lives of children, families, and communities; and*

**WHEREAS,**

*More than 28 million children in the U.S. have parents who work outside of the home and 15.1 percent of children have no supervised place to go afterschool. In Nebraska, prior to COVID-19, it was estimated that over 114,000 youth are on their own during afterschool hours — and need for supportive, caring out-of-school time learning environments for youth during the current pandemic is greater than ever; and*

**WHEREAS,**

*Beyond School Bells, Nebraska's statewide afterschool network and a program of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, and an array of partners in communities across the state are working to promote greater community involvement in the development and sustainability of high-quality, school-based, and community-powered afterschool programs; and*

**WHEREAS,**

*Many afterschool programs in Nebraska and across the country are facing COVID-19 related funding shortfalls that may require them to turn off their lights and close their doors to children and families who benefit from these important services during this critical moment when their need is so clear.*

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

*I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the 22nd day of October, 2021 as*

### **NEBRASKA LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY**

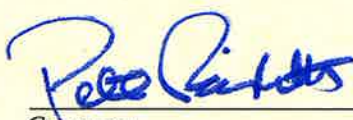
*in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of this observance.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Sixth day of October, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-one.*

*Attest:*



  
Secretary of State

  
Governor