

Family Advocacy Guide



The Facts

Your experience matters. Your voice can help protect and strengthen afterschool programs for all Nebraska families.

The people we elect are here to represent us, and **your voice matters**. If afterschool programs have helped your child grow academically, become more confident, or find a safe place to belong, don't keep it to yourself. When you share the importance with your elected officials, you help them understand why these programs are worth supporting.

Your Advocacy Journey!



Congress

Call or write to your elected officials to tell them why afterschool programs are so important to you and your family.

Family Members

Talk to your family members and encourage them to contact congress to share the importance of afterschool.

Community Members

Share information with others in your community who would be concerned by the loss of the afterschool program. Encourage them to speak up about this vital afterschool programming.

Your Stories Matter!



The Why

Storytelling is one of the most powerful tools for communicating the importance of Nebraska's afterschool programs – **Your story matters.**

Sharing your experience helps neighbors to understand and shows leaders why these programs matter. One story can make a big difference—including yours.

Speak up. **Start sharing your stories NOW.** Nebraska is listening.

Use these
talking points to
start telling your
stories to...

Elected Officials

- I don't have to choose between supporting my family and my child's safety while at work.
- My child is more ___ in school because of their afterschool program. (Confident, focused, excited, etc.)

School Leaders

- We see improvements in _____. (Attendance, behavior, academics, etc.)
- Afterschool supports my child's _____. (Achievement, workforce development, safety, etc.)
- Without afterschool, we cannot depend on quality childcare for our family.

Other Families

- My child gets to learn new things like _____.
- Afterschool is wonderful because _____.
- Please let other people know how important afterschool is to our community.

Afterschool in Nebraska

92%

92% of Nebraska parents overwhelmingly support public funding for afterschool programming.

8

Nebraska ranks 8th in the nation for afterschool.

\$6.5
million

More than \$6.5 million in federal 21st CCLC funds provide afterschool programming for over 17,000 Nebraska youth.