



After School Announcements

Bringing together those who serve Maine youth

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Happy Spring!

We'd like to bring your attention to the release of the Maine Children's Alliance annual publication, **Maine Kids Count** – their report tracking the well-being of Maine children. You will see good news and bad news this year: for example, cigarette use among youth has declined steeply, but high school drop-out rates are up. The percentage of teens who are neither working nor in school has declined, but childhood poverty has increased. There are many statistics that might be useful for grant-writing and program planning. Available to order online at www.mekids.org. We also have two copies in our resource library which are available for loan on request.

And speaking of the resource library here at the Network, we hope you are aware that it contains many hundreds of articles and publications related to all aspects of Afterschool, including youth development, program evaluation, curriculum, funding, best practices, staff training, collaboration and partnership ideas, and more, and it is available to YOU. Contact us!

We also invite submissions by providers who have experienced successful programs and would like to share your stories; or if you have come across a particularly helpful resource that you would like to recommend for our library, please let us know! We'd like this to be a **conversation** among the whole community as we work to develop the potential of Afterschool for all Maine kids!

Cyndy

Quality

The Exploratorium at the San Francisco Palace of Fine Arts is one of the world's premier science museums, showcasing a continually developing collection of exhibits and approaches to exploring, teaching, and discovering science. They have recently launched a Digital Library Afterschool website with the goal of bringing more science and math enrichment into out-of-school time. Hundreds of activities from printed explanations through digital videos, concept maps, DVD's, links to other STEM resources in the National Science Digital Library, etc. Visit www.exploratorium.edu/afterschool/.

"Afterschool Programs in the 21st Century: Their Potential and What It Takes to Achieve It." Harvard Family Research Project, February 2008. The HFRP has recently published the results of 10 years of Afterschool research to answer the questions of whether Afterschool program participation makes a difference and, if so, what makes for a successful Afterschool program. The secrets lie in sustained participation in high-quality programs, a conclusion elaborated upon in the brief at www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/resources.

"The Key to Keeping Teens in School: Service Learning," by John Bridgeland, *The Christian Science Monitor*, April 15, 2008.

"Imagine a movement in America that focuses on turning potential dropouts into model citizens. Service learning is that movement," claims the author. Almost half of minority students drop out; high school dropouts rarely participate in civic duties. Since service learning students report an increased desire to work hard and graduate, theoretically it will produce both more graduates and more good citizens! For a copy of the article, please contact this office.

In this Issue...

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Quality, cont.

The 21st Century Afterschool Science Project (21st CASP) is a 21st CCLC-funded New Jersey Afterschool program involving a collaboration among the state education agency, Liberty Science Center and the School-Age Care Coalition. The program involves an integrated science, math and language arts curriculum utilizing the guided-inquiry approach and incorporating staff capacity-building and parent engagement. To learn more visit <http://www.state.nj.us/education/21cclc/casp/>.

Events

June 26, 11:30 a.m. – Nellie Mae Education Foundation, Afterschool Alliance, and Maine AfterSchool Network are co-sponsoring a lunch and discussion called *New England After 3PM: Spotlight on Maine*, in which the results of a survey of Maine school principals about Afterschool programs and needs in their communities will be discussed. Featured speakers include Education Commissioner Susan Gendron, Afterschool champion Rep. Chris Barstow, and Beth Miller, Ph.D., author of [The Learning Season: The Untapped Power of Summer to Advance Student Achievement](#). Event will be at the Mariner's Church Banquet Center, 368 Fore Street, Portland. If you did not receive an invitation and wish to attend, please contact cynthia.stancioff@maine.edu.

July 15-17 - 21st Century Community Learning Centers Summer Institute, InterContinental Dallas Hotel, Dallas, TX. Conference for afterschool professionals who work with 21st Century Community Learning Centers. July 15 will be pre-conference events, including state coordinators meetings, a networking session, and an evening reception. Regular conference sessions will take place on July 16 and 17. Contact Sean Grobe, e-mail 21stcentury@sei2003.com, or visit web site <https://www.sei2003.com/21stcentury>.

July 22-25 New Mexico Media Literacy Project 2008 Catalyst Institute – Media literacy is essential to successfully functioning in today's society. Youth are faced with increasing volume and complexity of media messages, and need skills to critically evaluate this barrage of information. The Catalyst Institute offers an intensive four-day training experience in media literacy concepts and skills, with workshops, exercises, video screenings and discussions. For teachers, health professionals, community activists and others. Contact catalyst@nmmlp.org or tel. 505-828-3129 (9-5 Mountain Time).

Grants

The Staples Foundation For Learning will be accepting applications for grant funding between June 2 and June 16, 2008 for September 2008 start-up. Their mission is to provide funding to programs that support or provide job skills and/or education for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. Recipients must be 501(c)3 organizations that will "align with the Staples Foundation mission and give focus on job skills and education." Another funding round will occur in October for January 09 start-up. Visit www.staplesfoundation.org/foundapplication.html for an application.

Share Our Strength is sponsoring Great American Bake Sale grants to increase participation among low-income school-age children in afterschool and summer meal programs. Grants will be awarded to organizations that directly sponsor USDA-reimbursed afterschool and/or summer meal programs for children, or who advocate for increased participation in such programs. Grants from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Deadline May 30. Visit <http://gabs.strength.org/site>.

The Non-Profit Times announced on April 2 the launch of an online portal that gives free access to corporate donation data for fundraising research to non-profit grant writers and other researchers at <http://www.nptgrantsearch.com>. "...The only free service of its kind, users can search, view and save information about the corporate donor, recipient organization, size of gift, and year of donation. Non-profits can research current donors and create customized prospect lists to assist in solicitation planning."

Purpose:

To enable every child to have access to quality, inclusive, affordable after school programming that meets the needs of the child, the family and the community.

Vision:

Every school-age child in Maine will have access to quality; inclusive, affordable programs during out-of-school time that meet the needs of the child, the family and the community.

Network Goals:

- 1. Foster statewide, regional, and local partnerships through clear communication among policymakers and providers, in order to coordinate services across the state.*
- 2. Assist in securing resources needed to develop new after school programs and sustain existing programs.*
- 3. Assist with training, technical assistance and coordination to ensure that programs are inclusive, high quality, and meet the needs of children, families and communities.*