



## Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week Talking Points

What is Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week?

- Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week is a time to recognize, appreciate and advocate for those who work with young people during out-of-school hours. The week is marked by celebrations, public relations, and advocacy efforts encouraging appreciation and support for afterschool professionals who make a profound difference in the lives of youth.

Afterschool professionals deserve recognition, appreciation, and support for the work that they do to support kids, families, and communities.

- An estimated 10.2 million young people participate in afterschool programs each year in the U.S.
- Over 850,000 afterschool professionals--those who work with children and youth during out-of-school time--are part of a highly skilled and valuable profession. However, oftentimes they are not recognized or appreciated for the essential work that they do.
- Research shows that afterschool professionals are the key to the program quality that mitigates risk factors and positively impacts youth outcomes.
- Afterschool programs run by skilled professionals result in increased social-emotional skills, school attendance, and academic performance.
- Let's recognize, appreciate, and advocate for afterschool professionals during Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week and beyond!