



Investment in After-School Programs Act of 2008 (S. 3545)

Background

Many rural communities lack the resources to establish and run effective afterschool programs. Others have afterschool programs, but are limited by high transportation costs, a shortage of private partners, and the challenge of recruiting and retaining staff. On September 24, Senators Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Susan Collins (R-ME) introduced the Investment in After-School Programs Act of 2008, which calls for a pilot program to establish or improve afterschool programs in rural areas. If enacted, this legislation would provide grants of \$50,000 or more to create new afterschool programs and help existing programs overcome barriers to effective service.

Summary

The Investment in After-School Programs Act:

- Authorizes grants of \$50,000 or more to lead education agencies, community-based organizations, or other public or nonprofit organizations to establish or improve rural afterschool programs. Grantees shall use this funding to make investments in areas such as transportation, professional development, training, planning, and increased access to technology. Grants are provided for terms of 3 or more years.
- Gives priority to grant applicants who already have partnerships in place.
- Authorizes \$500 million over five years, with annual \$25 million increased increments to lay out a roadmap for investment.
- Includes a small set-aside for evaluation and dissemination of best practices.

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Citizen Schools is a leading national education initiative that mobilizes thousands of adult volunteers to help improve student achievement by teaching skills-building apprenticeships after school. These programs blend real-world learning projects with rigorous academic and leadership development activities, preparing students in the middle grades for success in high school, college, the workforce, and civic life.

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Citizen Schools and the Alliance for Children and Families are working in partnership to strengthen the afterschool sector through policy initiatives. For more information, visit www.alliance1.org. We appreciate their assistance in creating this document.