

ZAP THE GAP!



With Afterschool
& Summer Learning



SUPPORT STATE FUNDING OF \$2.5 MILLION IN THE EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (ELO) SPECIAL FUND

Quality afterschool and summer learning programs keep kids safe & healthy, inspire learners, help working families, and support Vermont's vision for education. Vermont has the lowest level of low-income children enrolled in afterschool in the entire nation. Help to **zap all the gaps**—the achievement gap, opportunity gap, geographic gap, and homework gap—by supporting a \$2.5 million appropriation to the ELO Special Fund.

Vermont currently has no dedicated state funding to ensure that afterschool and summer learning programs are available and accessible to all.

The **ELO Special Fund** was passed in 2015 as part of Act 48, which included language establishing a state fund for ELOs. The purpose of the ELO Special Fund is to expand access to programs that serve preK-12 children and youth outside the school day on a regular basis, including before and after school, school vacation weeks, and summer.

More than 21,000 Vermont K-12 youth are enrolled in afterschool, but 22,000+ are waiting for an available program.

An annual appropriation of \$2.5 million would help to ensure that **all high-need communities** in Vermont get the support they need to make sure that children, youth, and families have access to quality afterschool and summer learning programs.

Vermont Child Poverty Council Report January 2017

“Studies have shown that students who do not participate in enrichment activities outside core school hours are more likely to fall behind their peers in terms of academic achievement; are more likely to engage in risky or dangerous behaviors; and are less likely to continue on to college. The Council requests that the General Assembly provide funding to the Expanded Learning Opportunities Special Fund to expand access to afterschool and summer learning programs, particularly in underserved areas of the State and in communities with a high percentage of students from families with low income.”

Vermont Early Childhood Alliance Agenda January 2017

“Quality afterschool and summer learning programs keep children safe, inspire learners, and help working families. The Alliance supports Vermont Afterschool’s ‘Zap the Gap’ campaign to create a state appropriation for the Expanded Learning Opportunities Special Fund, which if funded can provide grants to increase access to these programs, particularly for low-income children and families.”

Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality, Affordable Child Care November 2016

“The Commission focused on early care and learning for children birth to five years old; however, the Commission recognizes that early care and learning needs for families do not end at five years old. Before, after-school, and summer-time care is critical for supporting working parents and for providing safe, nurturing and educational environments for young children.”

PreK-16 Council Working Group on Expanded Learning Opportunities November 2015

“If eliminating the academic achievement gap, ensuring equity in educational opportunities, and fulfilling the vision of Vermont’s Education Quality Standards are indeed priorities for the state, then it is critical that the Legislature and Administration take leadership with investment and action on this issue by following the recommendations [detailed in the report] and allocating state funding to work toward providing access to Expanded Learning Opportunities for the children and youth in every Vermont community.”



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Vermont Afterschool is a statewide nonprofit dedicated to supporting and sustaining innovative learning opportunities that extend beyond the school day for all Vermont’s children and youth.