

Legislative News

April 17, 2007

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

As the end of the session draws near, the Iowa After-school Alliance reports that the following funding mechanisms are being considered by legislators:

- * Floor managers of the Healthy Iowans Tobacco Trust currently have identified \$300,000 for funding afterschool programs.
- * An additional \$400,000 specifically for afterschool is included in the education budget. This inclusion is an important recognition on behalf of lawmakers that afterschool programs are a necessity for Iowa's kids.
- * SF81 currently has \$3 million within the education budget to fund supplemental educational programs that support student advancement. If the bill is successful, before- and after-school programs that have an academic, tutoring, or homework component would be eligible to apply for funds.
- * HF728 and SF490 would create technical assistance and training for arts enrichment programs and provide \$50,000 for grants to out-of-school arts programs.

We are on the road to major progress since last year's appropriation of \$150,000!

Please take time today to call, write or email your legislators. Ask them to support funding for after-school programs to keep kids safe, help working families, and support student learning.

Iowa PTA is extremely grateful to the Iowa After-school Alliance (IAA) and the Iowa Community Education Association (ICEA) for spearheading the state-wide effort to support afterschool programs in Iowa. To learn more, visit:

Iowa Afterschool Alliance

www.iowaafterschoolalliance.org

Iowa Community Education Association

www.iowacommunityeducation.org

WRITING TO YOUR LEGISLATORS

During the legislative session, address mail to Iowa Legislators at:

The Honorable (full name of legislator)
Iowa House of Representatives (or Iowa Senate)
State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

Use the correct salutation:

Dear Representative (last name),
Or
Dear Senator (last name),

CALLING YOUR LEGISLATORS

Leave a message for your Representative in the House by calling (515) 281-3221

Leave a message for your Senator by calling (515) 281-3371

E-MAILING YOUR LEGISLATORS

You **MUST** include your home address in your email, so they know you are a constituent!

Email addresses are created as follows:
firstname.lastname@legis.state.ia.us

DON'T KNOW WHO YOUR LEGISLATORS ARE?

Go to: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/FindLeg/>

TIPS ON COMMUNICATING WITH LAWMAKERS:

http://www.iowapta.org/pdf/legislative/Advocating_to_Lawmakers.pdf

ADVOCACY GUIDELINES FOR PTAs:

http://www.iowapta.org/pdf/legislative/Guidelines_for_Advocating.pdf

To get a FREE advocacy workshop for your PTA, contact the Iowa PTA office:

ia_office@pta.org

(515) 225-4197

(800) 475-4782

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