
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 147 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, LEWIS DELROSSO, SCHMITT, SANCHEZ,
LONGIETTI, FREEMAN, McNEILL, MILLARD, M. MACKENZIE, BROOKS,
A. DAVIS, HOHENSTEIN, HOWARD AND KIM, OCTOBER 6, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 6, 2021

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 28, 2021, as "Lights On Afterschool Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The residents of this Commonwealth stand firmly
4 committed to quality after-school programs and opportunities
5 because those programs and opportunities:

6 (1) provide safe, challenging and engaging learning
7 experiences that help children develop social, emotional,
8 physical and academic skills;

9 (2) support working families by ensuring that their
10 children are safe and productive after the regular school day
11 ends;

12 (3) build stronger communities by involving students,
13 parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives
14 of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships
15 among youth, families and adults; and

16 (4) engage families, schools and community partners in
17 advancing the welfare of our children;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has provided significant leadership in
3 the area of community involvement in the education and well-
4 being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality
5 after-school programs are key to helping our children become
6 successful adults; and

7 WHEREAS, It is estimated that every \$1 invested in after-
8 school programs saves \$3 by increasing students' earning
9 potential, improving students' performance at school and
10 reducing crime and welfare costs; and

11 WHEREAS, For students in kindergarten through twelfth grade,
12 more than 89% of their time is spent learning outside school
13 during after-school and summer programs, in libraries, museums
14 and science centers or at home or in the community; and

15 WHEREAS, After-school programs engage students in hands-on,
16 real-world science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)
17 projects to help build vital 21st-century skills, cultivate an
18 interest in STEM and offer innovative ways for students to
19 connect STEM to their lives and communities; and

20 WHEREAS, Approximately 19.4 million families report that they
21 would enroll their child in an after-school program if one were
22 available; and

23 WHEREAS, After-school programs can provide holistic support
24 for children and improve the development of social and emotional
25 competencies such as problem solving, critical thinking and
26 interpersonal skills; and

27 WHEREAS, Many after-school programs across the country are
28 facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced
29 to close their doors and turn off their lights; and

30 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is committed to investing in the health

1 and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning
2 opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and
3 prepare young people to compete in the global economy; and

4 WHEREAS, "Lights On Afterschool," the national celebration of
5 after-school programs held this year on October 28, 2021,
6 promotes the importance of quality after-school programs in the
7 lives of children, families and communities; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
9 designate October 28, 2021, as "Lights On Afterschool Day" in
10 Pennsylvania; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly enthusiastically endorse
12 "Lights On Afterschool" and commit this Commonwealth to engage
13 in innovative after-school programs and activities that ensure
14 that the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children
15 after school.