

Lobbying vs Issue Education Handout

Do's and don'ts for afterschool issue education

To protect afterschool funding, it's important that you share why afterschool matters with your elected representatives at the federal level.

If you're thinking, *"But I can't do that because I..."*

- A) *Work for a nonprofit,*
- B) *Work in a 21st CCLC-funded program and/or*
- C) *Don't know how to advocate*

YES YOU CAN! You can and should share why afterschool matters with your representatives; it's called issue education.

Just follow this guide to understand the difference between issue education and lobbying.

	Issue Education	Lobbying
How it's defined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A communication • To a legislator or elected official • <u>Educating or informing them on issues important to you as a constituent</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A communication • To a legislator or elected official • <u>That expresses a view about specific legislation</u>
Rules – what you can and can't do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can do this without restriction • You can identify yourself as a youth worker at a 21st CCLC program, or just as a private citizen and constituent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You cannot use 21st CCLC funds or work time for lobbying. • You can use other unrestricted funds, but you must record your time spent lobbying.
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Afterschool is important to me because I believe all youth deserve the opportunity to spark their passion." • "I work in an afterschool program and see how it helps youth succeed in school. I know that afterschool matters." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I oppose President Trump's proposed budget which cuts federal afterschool funding" • "Please don't cut funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Center program."

Questions or concerns? Contact Brandon at brandon@igniteafterschool.org

Flip over for samples of what issue education looks like. →



Afterschool inspires learning,
keeps kids safe and
supports working families!

Here's why afterschool makes me



Remember to personalize your message and make it your own.

As a working parent, I can focus on my job knowing that my kids are safe and engaged in their afterschool program.

I love the feeling when I'm showing a young person a new way to approach math or reading and you see something light up - you know they're inspired to learn because of the work you do.

I don't want my or anyone else's kids sitting in front of a TV when there's so many wonderful things they could be doing. Afterschool programs in my community provide activities like dance, sports, theater, music, tutoring. I don't know what we'd do without them.

Afterschool programs are the launchpad for my kids' interests and the safe place where they always feel welcome.