### KEY MESSAGES

Think of these key messages and supporting points as a primer to help you effectively communicate the value of afterschool. For more in-depth information, please visit Why Afterschool Matters on igniteafterschool.org.

| Approximately 220,000 kids (1 in 4 Minnesota youth) are alone and unsupervised after school. | • Research has shown that unsupervised time after school is the most likely time for kids to become victims of or commit crimes, or to experiment with drugs, alcohol or cigarettes.  
  * Opportunity gap: of students who regularly participate in afterschool programming, the majority are white students or from higher-income families.  
    * Only 51% of low-income youth (compared to 69% of higher-income youth) regularly participate.  
    * Students of color are less likely to regularly participate in afterschool programs. |
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| Afterschool programs unlock young people’s fullest potential and can help address the state’s achievement gap. | • Youth who regularly participate in high-quality afterschool programs tend to score higher on several developmental skills indicators, such as social competence and commitment to learning.  
  * Research shows that participation in high-quality afterschool programs also directly improves the ABCs: school attendance, behavior, and core academic performance. |
| There is a huge funding gap for afterschool programs in Minnesota – leaving families without options. | • In the 2017-18 school year, there were zero dedicated state dollars available for afterschool programming and only $7 million in federal funding through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC) program.  
  * With uncertainty about ongoing federal funding and changes in other funding sources, afterschool programs are unfortunately being eliminated or downsized – at a time when more kids than ever need a place to go.  
  * Investing in afterschool programs is an investment in Minnesota’s economy and future leaders |
| We know afterschool works. It inspires learning, supports young people on the path to college and careers, and helps working families. | • Afterschool programs serve school-aged children (K-12) and encompass a broad range of areas such as academic support, mentoring, youth development, arts, and sports and recreation.  
  * Sometimes “afterschool” is thought of as “open gym” or a replacement for child care – but it is so much more than that. Across the state, innovative afterschool programs offer a broad range of focus areas including leadership development, STEM activities, mentoring, athletics, arts, and even credit recovery.  
  * Afterschool programming is a lifeline that helps working parents focus on their job, knowing their kids are safe. Parents overwhelming say that afterschool opportunities provide security and peace of mind. |