

Holly Morehouse
Vermont Afterschool, Inc.
802-598-4005

hollymorehouse@vermontafterschool.org

**Vermont Ranks 4th in the Nation for Afterschool Programs that
Keep Kids Safe, Inspire Learners, and Support Working Families**

Colchester, VT: A new nationwide report released by the [Afterschool Alliance](#) ranks Vermont as 4th in the nation for afterschool programming. The *America After 3PM* report, based on a comprehensive survey commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance and conducted by Shugoll Research, highlights the progress Vermont has made over the past decade in providing quality afterschool programs. These programs play an essential role in communities throughout Vermont by keeping children and youth safe, inspiring them to learn, and supporting working families between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.

America After 3PM is the most in-depth look at how children spend their time after school, demand and supply of programs, and parents' perspectives on the role of afterschool programs. The 2014 report ranks Vermont as one of the top ten states based in part on high levels of parent satisfaction with their child's afterschool program (95%) and strong levels of support for public funding for afterschool programs (88%). However, rising levels of unmet demand continue to be of concern in Vermont. The 2014 report shows that only 24% percent of Vermont's children, grades K-12, are currently enrolled in afterschool programs. Of those children not currently in programs, 33% would participate if an afterschool program were available.

"We are thrilled about the national ranking for Vermont in the *America After 3PM* report," stated [Vermont Afterschool's](#) Executive Director, Holly Morehouse. "The data tell us that afterschool programs in Vermont are valued by parents for their quality, the services offered, and the academic supports provided. When you consider that children spend, on average, 1,000 hours a year in school but 5,000 in their communities and with their families, making sure that children and youth are engaged in healthy, productive activities during that out-of-school time is important."

Morehouse explained that the report also highlights a growing demand for quality afterschool programs in the state. "We have more work to do to provide quality afterschool programming for all children and youth who need it. The report comes at a time when many Vermonters are engaged in discussions about our education model and how we deliver services across the state. We know from research, and from the last 10 years of progress, that quality afterschool programs play a vital role in supporting student success and well-being. Vermont must take bold steps now to ensure increased access to quality afterschool programs so that all children and youth in our state have the opportunities, skills, and resources they need to succeed in school, thrive in life, and develop their full potential."

The national and Vermont *America After 3PM* reports, and accompanying data, are available at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/>.

About Vermont Afterschool, Inc.: Vermont Afterschool is a statewide nonprofit that supports organizations in providing quality afterschool, summer, and expanded learning experiences so that Vermont's children and youth have the opportunities, skills, and resources they need to become healthy, productive members of society. <http://vermontafterschool.org>