



<p>POLICY</p>	<p>RESEARCH</p>	<p>STEM</p>	<p>IN THE FIELD</p>	<p>FUNDING</p>
<p>Members of Congress and national organizations pledge support for boosted afterschool funding</p>	<p>New research on girls and STEM to celebrate Women's History Month</p>	<p>Upcoming webinar: Learn to Speak "STEM-ish"</p>	<p>The power of parent advocacy to expand afterschool access</p>	<p>Jump-start your program's physical activities with a PEP grant</p>

## Recent Afterschool Snacks

MAR 29

### The power of parent advocacy to expand afterschool access

2016

By Jillian Luchner



IN THE FIELD

6

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Sometimes, you hear a story that's simply inspirational—the kind of story movies are based on. I recently heard such a story from Allyson Criner Brown, associate director of [Teaching for Change](#), an organization with a [family engagement approach](#) that works to include families and communities in decision making around children's education. This story concerns a group of empowered parents who successfully argued for expanded afterschool offerings in their community.

In spring 2015, parents at Bruce Monroe Elementary at Park View (BMPV), a DC public school, finally refused to accept a

waitlist 75 names long for access to BMPV's afterschool program. The parents organized as the Parents and Teachers United (PTU) with the help of Teaching for Change, and the PTU trained parent advocates to lead "across race, class, and language...and work with the administration to resolve issues that are critically important to the school community." One of the biggest concerns for BMPV parents was the lack of afterschool access. Parents and families raised their united voice, met with the principal and district officials, and were rewarded with great results: six new staff positions for their afterschool program in order to expand opportunities for students and their families.

You can [read the whole article](#) on the parents' successful advocacy on the Teaching for Change webpage. The website also has additional resources for parent organizing and parent engagement.

Research conducted by the Afterschool Alliance shows that [lots of students nationwide are waiting to get in](#) to afterschool programs. If you have a good story of success in spite of this challenge, please [send it along](#). We'd love to hear and to share.

And a big congratulations to the families of DC's Bruce Monroe Elementary at Park View!

share this link: <http://bit.ly/22YNReh>  
 learn more about: [Advocacy](#)

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ESSA: A Q&A for the afterschool field Drumroll please! And the winner of the Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award is...

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The President's FY2017 budget: An afterschool and summer learning perspective

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