



## After-School Programs

Take a moment to reflect back on your childhood. When the school bell rang for the day, what did you do? Did you go home to a trusted adult, who could help answer homework questions? Or were you enrolled in an after-school sports or enrichment program?



Denver Public Schools (DPS) has more than 89,000 students and only 17,000 are being served by after-school programs. With more than 60,000 students qualifying for free & reduced lunch, a key indicator of poverty, this means thousands of students are left without a structured, safe environment after school. Many students are going home to an empty house, without a healthy snack, or adequate adult supervision, and their chances of getting into trouble are increased.

### What Your Support Will Do

After-school programs are more than just a safe place to spend a few hours. They are a critical supplement to school-day learning, providing additional instruction, enrichment and leadership development programs for students. After-school programs are a place for students to feel safe, have fun, and engage in enriching educational activities. With your help, quality after-school programs can be available for more students!

The DPS Foundation supports Denver's working families by providing safe, enriching and academically supportive after-school programs for more than 17,000 students each year. Students enrolled in regular DPS after-school programs exhibit better school attendance, lower suspension rates and higher median growth percentile points across reading, writing and math compared to their peers not enrolled in such programs.

### The Need for After-School Programs

Research shows that after-school programs can reduce barriers to youth success for students who are facing challenges such as low academic achievement, poverty and truancy.

Students in after-school programs have fewer behavioral problems, greater self-confidence, and can handle conflict better than students who are not enrolled in these programs.

National studies show parents without regular after-school care for their children miss eight more days of work per year than their peers whose children are in regular after-school programs.



## Lights On After School

Lights On After School (LOAS) is a partnership between the DPS Foundation, Mile High United Way, and the City and County of Denver that provides funding to ensure the sustainability of quality, school-based after-school programs that keep our student's engaged in enriching learning experiences during the critical 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. hours. These programs provide a tremendous service for DPS students, families, and communities throughout Denver. LOAS funding allows community organizations to provide a wide range of programming at DPS elementary and middle schools including:

- art classes
- chess club
- ballet
- computer classes
- photography
- foreign language courses
- college-prep classes
- mariachi band
- math tutoring
- and much more!

**“Through after-school programs, our students have a chance to share in a well-balanced, holistic educational experience. The child that struggles academically can shine on the kickball field. The artistic child who doesn't have many outlets for expression is able to produce the cover for the yearbook. The child on a free-lunch plan who probably doesn't get a varied diet experiences new foods/cultures for the first time. These are amazing opportunities that aid in building self-esteem, gaining confidence and improving attitudes.”**

– Bradley Elementary School Teacher

After-school is possible for every student with your support! **There are three easy ways to invest in after-school programs:**

- Visit [www.dpsfoundation.org](http://www.dpsfoundation.org) and click “Donate Now”
- Mail a check to DPS Foundation, 1860 Lincoln Street, 9th Floor, Denver, CO 80203
- Call us at (720) 423-3553



You could earn a 50% state income tax credit for helping DPS kids succeed. Make a gift of \$100 or more to the DPS Foundation for after-school programs, and you could earn credit for your investment. Visit [www.dpsfoundation.org/taxcredit](http://www.dpsfoundation.org/taxcredit).

### I AM

**I am after-school programs.  
I am inspiration to go to college.  
I am new and creative ways to write.  
I am opening eyes to more of the world.  
I am the inside of a TV studio.  
I am a strong drive to succeed in life.  
I am surrounded by bad choices.  
I am the safe place where kids can go.  
I am a place to express my feelings whether happy, silly or sad.  
I am teamwork, leadership and commitment.  
I am a reason to come to school every day.  
I am confidence.  
I am a healthy and active life style.  
I am NOT watching TV and eating junk food.  
I am BOTH smart and athletic.  
I am the complete package.  
I am afterschool programs  
And  
I am Laura.**

- DPS Student