



Office of the Governor
State of Missouri

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the parents and citizens of Missouri stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural and academic skills; and

WHEREAS, afterschool programs support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends, and build stronger communities by involving our students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families and adults; and

WHEREAS, the State of Missouri has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, Lights on After School, a national celebration of afterschool programs on October 23, 2014, promotes the critical importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, their families and their communities; and

WHEREAS, more than 28 million children in the United States have parents who work outside the home, and 15.1 million children have no place to go after school; and

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close; and

WHEREAS, the State of Missouri is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy.

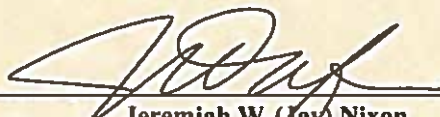
NOW THEREFORE, I, Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim October 23, 2014, to be

LIGHTS ON AFTER SCHOOL DAY

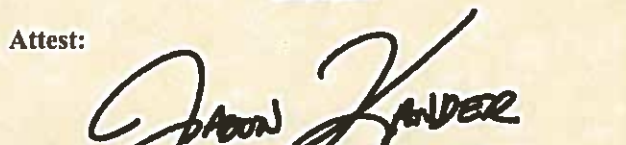
in Missouri, and encourage all communities to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 18th day of September, 2014.




Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor

Attest:


Secretary of State