

Proclamation Keeping the Lights On After School

WHEREAS, the Pinellas County School Board stands 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.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.
- 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.
- Engage families, schools and diverse community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

WHEREAS, all of our community afterschool programs 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 our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, *Lights On Afterschool*, a national celebration of afterschool programs on October 17th 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 U.S. 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 their doors and turn off their lights.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pinellas County School Board urges the citizens of Pinellas County to ensure that every child has access to a safe and caring environment, engaging place where the lights are on after school;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pinellas County School Board enthusiastically endorses *Lights On Afterschool* and is committed to quality afterschool programs and activities that ensure that the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

Peggy O'Shea, Chairperson

Michael A. Grego, Ed., Superintendent

Date