

For Immediate Release: October 20, 2011 Contact: Michael Howard, 651-582-8211

## **Governor Dayton Proclaims October 20 Lights On Afterschool** Day!

To acknowledge and highlight the important role afterschool programs play in providing safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural and academic skills, Governor Dayton has proclaimed October 20, 2011, to be Lights On Afterschool Day.

There is a growing body of evidence that demonstrates a positive relationship between regular participation in high-quality afterschool programs and positive outcomes for young people. Quality afterschool programs provide critical opportunities for youth to learn, lead, connect and thrive. Through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant and the Learning Year: Targeted Services program, the Minnesota Department of Education is lending its support to schools and communities across the state. Because of these investments, thousands of students across the state have increased opportunities to participate and engage in learning outside of the classroom.

Governor Dayton recognizes and supports the work of schools and communities as they partner together to leverage the resources needed to create and sustain these opportunities. <u>View the proclamation</u>.

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