

February 25, 2015

**RE: New Jersey Statewide Mayoral Summit on Afterschool**

Dear Mayor:

How do the youth in your city or town spend their hours after school? Do you partner with schools, local childcare providers, arts organizations or athletic leagues and teams to provide a safe and enriching environment for youth during the time outside of the traditional school day? The success of NJ's youth depends on increasing awareness around the issues affecting school-age youth and the areas of great importance to you such as, high school graduation and retention rates, juvenile justice rates and workforce and economic development.

Whether you offer existing programs or realize the need to start or increase the services your city and town offers... you must attend the first-ever New Jersey Statewide Mayoral Summit on Afterschool! This event, which will focus on the importance of focusing on the importance of afterschool and out-of-school time programming and its impact on the success of New Jersey's young people and the communities in which they live, being coordinated by Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, in partnership with NJSACC: The Statewide Network for New Jersey's Afterschool Communities.

All mayors are invited to attend the "**Strong Youth, Strong Cities: Building Municipal Systems to Invest beyond the Classroom**" Mayoral Summit, hosted by the Honorable Mayor Baraka. This **free summit** will be held within walking distance of Newark Penn Station on:

**Wednesday, April 15th, 2015**

**9:00am-3:30pm**

**The Metropolitan Room at**

**The Newark Club**

**One Newark Center**

**Newark, NJ 07102**

Now more than ever, the issues impacting school-age youth are inextricably linked to the health and sustainability of cities and towns— high school graduation and retention rates, juvenile justice rates and workforce and economic development. The summit will provide New Jersey mayors and key stakeholders with a unique opportunity to connect on statewide and national policy; to increase awareness of the issues affecting school-age youth; and to discuss afterschool and out-of-school time systems, partnerships and collaborations to build, maintain and sustain quality programming. Featured speakers will include national experts from The Wallace Foundation and the National Institute on Out-of-School Time. NJSACC will offer free, targeted technical assistance to interested mayors to create a consortium of stakeholders who will continue the messaging of the importance of afterschool beyond the summit.

Mayors are **strongly encouraged** to invite key partners to attend the summit, either cross department or cross sector, including school superintendents, recreation directors, summer youth employment directors or health and human services administrators. Please register for the

mayoral summit at [NJSACC.org/summit](https://njsacc.org/summit). For additional information about the Mayoral Summit contact NJSACC at [908.789.0259](tel:908.789.0259) or email [egrace@njsacc.org](mailto:egrace@njsacc.org).

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.  
Executive Director