

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Mississippi stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help children realize their full potential.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive when they are out of their classrooms.
- Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families, and adults.
- Engage families, schools, and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

WHEREAS, afterschool programs have risen to support youth in addressing their social and academic needs as they recover from learning gaps, and afterschool programs continue to provide innovative, hands-on opportunities for youth to re-engage in their learning and connect with caring adults and peers in a safe and supportive environment; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi 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 our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, *Lights On Afterschool*, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 28, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, nearly 25 million families report that they would enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were available, yet many afterschool programs across the country are facing operating challenges so severe that they are forced to consider closing their doors and turning off their lights; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that help our children learn and grow while helping them develop the skills essential for success in life and work.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the state of Mississippi, hereby proclaim October 20 as

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY

and urge fellow Mississippians to support quality afterschool programs and encourage innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 11TH day of October in the year of our Lord, two thousand and two, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-seventh.

Tate Reeves

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR