



2014 Arizona Out-of-School Time Survey

District: **CD 9**

Candidate: **U.S. Rep. Kyrsten Sinema**

QUESTION 1:

The 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) initiative is a federally-funded program that provides free high-quality afterschool, before school, and summer programming to children in high-poverty areas. Students who participate in 21st CCLC programs often show improvements in their math and English grades, as well as in classroom behavior and participation. Additionally, 21st CCLC and other affordable out-of-school time (OST) programs alleviate the burden of afterschool care for tens of thousands of Arizona families. Only 5% of Arizona children who are eligible to participate in a 21st CCLC program are currently enrolled, due largely to limited federal funding, which is currently at less than 50% of its authorized level. Do you support continued funding of the 21st CCLC program, and if so, at what level?

ANSWER:

“Yes. I believe that we must do whatever possible to help our children succeed. Providing children, especially those in high-poverty areas, with access to programs like the 21st CCLC program that increase their potential to learn and achieve in vital areas like math and English will better prepare them for their future academic and professional careers. The fact that out of the nearly half a million children in Arizona eligible for these programs, only 5 percent currently attend due to funding shortages is an urgent problem deserving our immediate attention. I would support a measure increasing federal investments for such programs to extend enrollment opportunities to children, especially in high-poverty areas.”



QUESTION 2:

Jobs in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) professions are becoming a larger share of the job market, and the demand for skilled workers in these fields is increasing. However, many students graduating from high school are not prepared for the college-level math and science required for the vast majority of these jobs. With young people spending less than 20% of their waking hours in school, out-of-school time programs are essential for increasing interest in and aptitude for STEM – and are proven to do just that. The recently introduced **Supporting Afterschool STEM Act** will create a grant process to support afterschool/out-of-school STEM programs. Will you pledge to support legislation that provides funding for out-of-school time STEM programs?

ANSWER:

“Preparing our children for highly skilled, high wage jobs must be a priority so we can continue to grow our economy and maintain our nation’s competitiveness in the global economy. I would support legislation similar to the Support Afterschool STEM Act to help fund afterschool STEM programs, helping prepare students become adequately prepared for future educational opportunities and a potential career in the STEM field.”



QUESTION 3:

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is an initiative that began in the 1990s to assist low-income families in obtaining child care, including through out-of-school time programs, so that parents can work or receive job training. In Arizona, these subsidies are administered through the Department of Economic Security. In FY 2013, over 25,000 Arizona children were served by these subsidies; however, over 6,000 children who are eligible for services remain on the waitlist. Without child care assistance, families are often forced to lose time at work, go on welfare, or leave their children in low-quality and less stable care. As a Member of Congress, will you support continued funding for the CCDF, and if so, at what level?

ANSWER:

“No family should be forced to make the decision between working and taking care of their children. I firmly believe that we must continue to fund the Child Care and Development Fund so that the thousands of working class Arizona families and children the program serves and those currently on the waitlist can get the care and resources they need to support themselves while taking care of their children in a safe environment.”