



Arizona Out-of-School Time Pledge

Quality, affordable out-of-school time programs encourage youth to develop a love for learning, larger than what can be found in a book or taught in a traditional classroom. These programs provide enrichment, developmental supports, and opportunities that promote success, increase self-esteem, and prevent risky behaviors.

Successful programs build on learning in the classroom by translating academic concepts into hands-on activities and personal life experiences.

As a candidate for the Arizona State House of Representatives, I, **(name)**, pledge to be an **Arizona Out-of-School Time Advocate**, and support the Four Pillars of Out-of-School Time:

1. **Safety** --- Arizona Out-of-School Time Programs should provide safe and healthy environments for youth. The hours between 3pm and 6pm are when young people are most likely to engage in unsafe behaviors; out-of-school time programs should provide physically and emotionally safe environments, and promote healthy lifestyles and behaviors.
2. **Quality** --- Arizona Out-of-School Time Programs should be committed to continuous quality improvement. The programming offered youth should be intentional, stimulating, and age appropriate. Their staffs should be dedicated to and supportive of youth, and have access to quality professional development. Programs should engage with families, schools, and communities to provide the best possible learning opportunities and environments for youth.
3. **Accessibility** --- Arizona Out-of-School Time Programs are relied upon by tens of thousands of working families to provide safe and enriching care during the work day. These programs, which are proven to raise academic performance and narrow the achievement gap, should be accessible and affordable to all Arizona families.
4. **STEM** --- Arizona Out-of-School Time Programs should serve as an informal learning environment where youth can discover and explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). As the demand for highly skilled careers increases, Arizona needs to prepare our youth to meet the demand. With young people spending less than 20% of their waking hours in school, Out-of-School Time Programs should become a primary vehicle for fostering the critical thinking and problem solving required in STEM careers.

Signature

Date