



2014 Arizona Out-of-School Time Survey

District: **CD 7**

Candidate: **Randy Camacho**

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:

“Being a high school teacher education is very important to me because I have seen over the course of my lifetime what a game changer it has been in many lives, I support the 21st Century Community Learning Center Initiative and would work to fully fund it. Having education services before, during, and after school is vital to the reinforcement of the lessons learned during the school day, as well as building character. I am a strong believer in pre and afterschool programs. I am a product of Johnson’s Great Society. Summer school was a great experience for me growing up. I was involved in many programs growing up, such as after school and summer work programs and I fully benefited from them.”



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:

“Yes. I would like to also include the arts in this regard. The national STEAM effort is essential to helping students become global thinkers. I am a strong believer in all of the components of STEM, and in bringing the arts into the equation as well.”



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:

“I fully support the CCDF. I know people who are personally affected by the funding for these services. Not fully funding the CCDF is doing a disservice to our children’s future and that of our community as well.”