



2014 Arizona Out-of-School Time Survey

District: **CD 2**

Candidate: **U.S. Rep. Ron Barber**

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 support strong funding of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. Now, more than ever, it's important to give our kids the resources they need to grow, learn, and one day compete in a global marketplace. High-quality after-school, before school and summer programming is a key way to help our kids master the skills they need to succeed. Investing in education is good for our economy and it's good for Southern Arizona families. I am committed to improving federal education policies, while protecting critical funding for programs that are effective, like Pell Grants for college students, Individuals with Disabilities Education (IDEA) Act programs, and the 21st CCLC programs. We must give high priority to increases in funding for 21st CCLC programs.”



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:

“Investing in STEM is one of the best ways we can create the next generation of innovators, scientist and engineers, raise wages and grow the economy. We must strengthen STEM education at all levels: K-12, higher education, and in the workforce. I am a member of the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Caucus, and I am a strong supporter of increased funding for STEM education, including out-of-school time STEM programs.”



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 am a supporter of CCDF. In Congress, I would push to meet the current funding levels and work in a bi-partisan fashion to build a legislative coalition to double the funding. I am very familiar with wait-lists and the need for more administrative and programmatic funding to bring as many children into the program as possible.”