

Keeping the Lights On After School: A Proclamation

WHEREAS, **Brevard Public Schools through our Brevard Before and After School Program** stands firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.
- 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.

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, afterschool programs have risen to the moment to support youth, and are critical supports to help youth recover from this challenging time and address their academic, social, and emotional needs. Afterschool programs provide engaging, hands-on learning and opportunities to connect with caring adults and peers. Today, programs are supporting young people and families as they navigate the return to school and will continue to innovate to meet ever-changing needs.

WHEREAS, **Brevard Public Schools through our Brevard Before and After School Program** 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.

WHEREAS, *Lights On Afterschool*, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on **October 28, 2021**, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities.

WHEREAS, more than 28 million children in the U.S. have parents who work outside the home, and 7.7 million children have no place to go after school.

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that **Brevard Public Schools** urges the citizens of **Brevard County** to ensure that every child has access to a safe, engaging place where the lights are on after school; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this **School Board Chair** enthusiastically endorses *Lights On Afterschool* and is committed to innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure that the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

Dr. Mark Mullins, Superintendent

Date

Misty Belford, Board Chair

Date