



*State of Missouri*  
*Governor's Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the state of Missouri stand firmly committed to increasing access to high-quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they provide safe learning experiences that help children become engaged, productive citizens; support their academic growth; increase school day attendance; increase positive social connections, protecting youth from substance use and social media harms; support working families by ensuring their children are safe while they remain productive at work; develop a strong workforce by preparing youth with STEM skills and teaching teamwork, communication, goal setting and creative problem solving; and provide a robust return on investment. For every \$1 invested in afterschool programs, \$3 are saved by increasing youth-earning potential; improving school performance; and reducing crime and juvenile delinquency; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of Missouri is committed to the education and well-being of our youth, and recognizes that quality afterschool programs prepare our children to become successful adults, helping our communities thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, Lights On Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 24, 2024, promotes access to quality afterschool programs for our children, families, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the demand for afterschool programs continues to grow. For every child in a program, three are waiting to get in; yet, many afterschool programs face operating challenges so severe that they are forced to consider closing their doors and turning off their lights; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of Missouri is committed to providing expanded learning opportunities that help our children learn, grow, and develop the skills essential for success in life and work.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2024, to be

**LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY**

in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael L. Parson".

*Michael L. Parson*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jay Ashcraft".

SECRETARY OF STATE