



STATE OF MISSOURI  
*Proclamation*  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Missouri stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they: provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help children realize their full potential and support their academic growth and well-being; support working families by ensuring their children are safe and learning while parents remain productive at work; help address key issues in our state such as school absenteeism, learning loss recovery, and workforce development; build stronger communities by involving students, parents, businesses, and volunteers in the lives of young people; and provide a solid return on investment; and

**WHEREAS**, every dollar invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by increasing kids' earning potential; improving kids' performance at school; and reducing crime and juvenile delinquency.

**WHEREAS**, afterschool programs provide critical support for children and youth, offering them new experiences and opportunities, along with hands-on learning, that help them learn and grow. Youth who attend afterschool programs attend school more often, do better in school, and gain important work and life skills; 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 and help our communities thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, Lights On Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 23, 2025, promotes the importance of 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; and

**WHEREAS**, many afterschool programs face operating challenges so severe that they are forced to consider closing their doors and turning off their lights.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE KEHOE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**, do hereby proclaim October 23, 2025, 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025.



*Michael Kehoe*  
Mike Kehoe  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

*Denny Hopkins*  
SECRETARY OF STATE