



City and County of Denver  
and  
Denver Public Schools

Point of Contact: Sarah Dixon  
DPS Foundation  
720.423.3877  
sdixon@dpsfoundation.org

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Denver Celebrates National Lights on After School Day with Special Events October 17-20

**DENVER, CO -- October 13, 2011** –Denver will celebrate National Lights On After School Day (observed on Thursday, October 20) with special events highlighting the impact of quality after-school programs. Events are scheduled October 17-20 throughout Denver, and will bring together city, school and community leaders and partners in a collaborative campaign for awareness and support.

Research clearly states that students engaged in quality after-school programs have better attendance, higher test scores and lower dropout rates than those who are not. After-school programs also offer students access to arts, athletics, technology, mentoring, and many other programs that ensure a well-rounded education.

“The greatest impact the City can achieve is to bring the community together to support the success of Denver’s youth,” said Denver Mayor B. Michael Hancock. “As a City, we understand that the school door swings both ways and it is our responsibility to ensure quality programs for our children and youth on the other side of that door. That is why we are committed to advancing after-school programs and excited to celebrate the collective impact of Denver’s youth-serving organizations.”

“Quality after-school programs are a proven strategy to drive student achievement, and to extend the school day for our kids with targeted academic and enrichment opportunities,” said Superintendent Tom Boasberg. “Supporting and growing after-school programs is one of the articulated goals in DPS’ strategic Denver Plan. I’m eager to celebrate National Lights On After School Day in Denver to help shine the light on the impact of these programs, and the collaborative partnerships in place across our community that make them so successful.”

Schedule of Events (please visit [www.dpsfoundation.org](http://www.dpsfoundation.org) for full details):

- **[Monday, October 17](#) – Denver City Council Meeting – 5:30pm - City & County Building, 1437 Bannock Street, Room 450.** Reading of Lights On After School Day Proclamation and testimonials from afterschool providers and students.
- **[Tuesday, October 18](#) – Lights On After School Celebration - 4pm- Beacon Neighborhood Center on Rachel B. Noel Middle School Campus, 5290 Kittredge Street.** Join Mayor Michael B. Hancock, Superintendent Tom Boasberg, community leaders, students and families for a tour of after-school programs and a special musical performance by flobots.org partner artists.
- **[Wednesday, October 19](#) – School Board Candidate Forum** - Hosted by the [Denver Quality After-School Connection](#), please contact [DQUAC](#) for more details.
- **[Thursday, October 20](#) – Public Art Installation and Lighting of Denver City & County Building - 6pm - City & County Building.** National Lights On After School Day will be observed with a ceremonial lighting of the City & County Building and a public display (and illumination) of student-created artwork.
- **[Thursday, October 20](#) – DPS Board of Education Meeting - 5pm - 900 Grant Street, Boardroom.** Testimonials from DPS students and families.

More than 7,500 activities will take place across the country to celebrate National Lights On After School Day

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