



Take a glimpse back at our incredible year of Connection, Development, and Community Engagement!

As we reflect on the 2024–2025 year at NJSACC, we are filled with gratitude and pride for all that we’ve accomplished together. This year has been one of meaningful connection, creative problem-solving, and steadfast commitment to the children, families, and professionals who make up the heartbeat of New Jersey’s afterschool and out-of-school time (OST) community.

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NJSACC's Impact



IMPACT REPORT

2024 - 2025

400+ AFTERSCHOOL & OST PROFESSIONALS **1,437** TRAINING HOURS **27,000** YOUTH IMPACTED

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE &
TARGETED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

14 AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS \times **60** HOURS CALLS & SITE VISITS

NJSACC & 21ST CCLC
SITE VISITS & PEER LEADERSHIP $=$ **13,699** YOUTH IMPACTED

5 **CONFERENCES**
OFFERING OVER 60 WORKSHOPS

+ **466** OST PROFESSIONALS \times **1,760** WORKSHOP HOURS

= 62,415 YOUTH WITH QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS TO THEIR AFTERSCHOOL

NJSACC supports and strengthens the afterschool community across New Jersey

This year we picked a refocused view on Our Impact report

- The annual impact report quantifies NJSACC's overall impact on the OST professional community.
- This year we highlight the different categories of our efforts. To document how we adapted to meet the growing challenges to the Afterschool and OST world faced.
- With your support you can help us serve more OST professionals and quality programming to support New Jersey's Youth.

[Learn more here](#)

A Few Of The Resources We Offer



Annual Conferences

- NJSACC Annual Conference For Afterschool and OST Professionals
- Annual Soaring Beyond Expectations 21st CCLC Showcase
- NEW Mini-Conferences

School District Funds Toolkit for School Leaders

- Assisting school districts utilize the funds available to them.

Afterschool FLASH

- NJSACC's online blog connecting Afterschool and OST professionals with the most relevant news and events.

Professional Development

- Used as part of the process of continuous quality improvement.

Technical Assistance & Quality Coaching

- Provided with funding from the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development as part of a Federal CCDF Block Grant Earmark, quality coaching staff provide targeted, technical assistance for school-age programs and providers.

Afterschool Conversations

- Join us for our monthly virtual networking sessions where we share updates from the field, resources, guest experts and speakers, and dynamic conversations with the OST school-age community throughout NJ.

[Click here to check out NJSACC's many available resources](#)

Annual Conference On Afterschool & OST



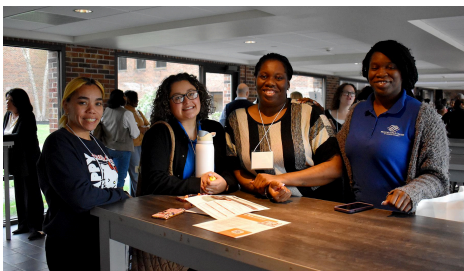
A Gathering of Over 300 Afterschool Professionals Dedicated To
Enhancing Youth Programs Across NJ!

CELEBRATED THE STATE'S SUCCESS IN AFTERSCHOOL,
S.T.E.A.M, AND EXPANDED LEARNING

40 plus workshops and over 300 participants

The 2025 NJSACC Afterschool and Out-of-School Time (OST) Conference, held on April 4–5 at the Princeton Marriott at Forrestal, brought together over 300 professionals dedicated to enhancing youth programs across New Jersey. This annual event featured more than 40 workshops covering topics such as S.T.E.A.M. education, social-emotional learning, grant writing, and youth advocacy to mention a few. Through 2 great days of networking NJSACC provided attendees with valuable tools and insights to elevate their programs.

[Read Full Article Here](#)



Soaring Beyond Expectations



Over 100 Professionals filled the rooms, fostering meaningful connections

16 workshops

100 participants

June 4, 2025, Monroe Township, New Jersey's Afterschool community came together again at the NJ Principals and Supervisors Association for Soaring Beyond Expectations: A Statewide Afterschool Celebration. Organized by NJSACC in collaboration with the NJ Department of Education's 21st CCLC Programs, this all-day conference brought together afterschool personnel, youth workers, and program directors dedicated to enhancing OST.

[Read Full Article Here](#)



NEW Mini-Conferences



It's no big secret, the key to a great summer camp experience is a great staff team!

3 Days in 3 Locations

75 + participants

South Jersey Mini-Conference – Equity in Access, Excellence in Practice

The first in the series, the South Jersey mini-conference launched NJSACC's new approach to regional summer camp leadership training. Designed to bring high-impact professional development closer to home, the event offered OST staff practical tools, peer connection, and fresh strategies to lead engaging, inclusive summer programs.

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North Jersey Mini-Conference – Building Summer Camp Leaders Close to Home

Following South Jersey's success, the North Jersey mini-conference continued the momentum with the same rich content and interactive sessions tailored for local OST professionals. By reducing travel barriers and increasing regional access, NJSACC made it easier for more staff to sharpen their skills and prepare for a strong summer.

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Central Jersey Mini-Conference – Expanding Reach, Strengthening Skills

The series wrapped in Central Jersey, bringing together a diverse group of summer program leaders for a day of focused training and collaboration. With each regional stop, the mini-conference model proved to be a powerful way to support OST professionals across the state, reinforcing NJSACC's commitment to equity, access, and excellence.



Showcase Alley Vendor Fair



Showcase Alley 2025 Sold Out With Over 30 Vendors!

Over 30 vendors came together to talk with decision makers on all the various ways they can help each other to give the best care for today's youth.grams.

[Read more here](#)



Quality Improvement



Web based trainings

- NJSACC offers online professional development for free or low cost. Take trainings from the comfort of your home 24/7!

[See More Here](#)

Enhanced Technical Assistance and Training

- NJSACC utilizes the [New Jersey Quality Standards for Afterschool](#) to design quality improvement plans for afterschool and OST programs in need of enhanced technical assistance and training... and so can you!

[See our trainings here](#)

Quality Coaching Initiative

- With grant funding from the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development as part of a Federal CCDF Block Grant Earmark, quality coaching staff provide targeted, technical assistance for school-age providers.
- In addition, quality coaching staff offer program observations, targeted tools and resources tailored to your individual program needs.

[See Our Special Initiatives For More](#)

Targeted Technical Assistance Program



The (TTA) Program

- Provided with funding from the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development as part of a Federal CCDF Block Grant Earmark, NJSACC's quality coaching staff provide targeted, technical assistance for school-age programs and providers.

[Learn More Here](#)

FLASH Afterschool Blog

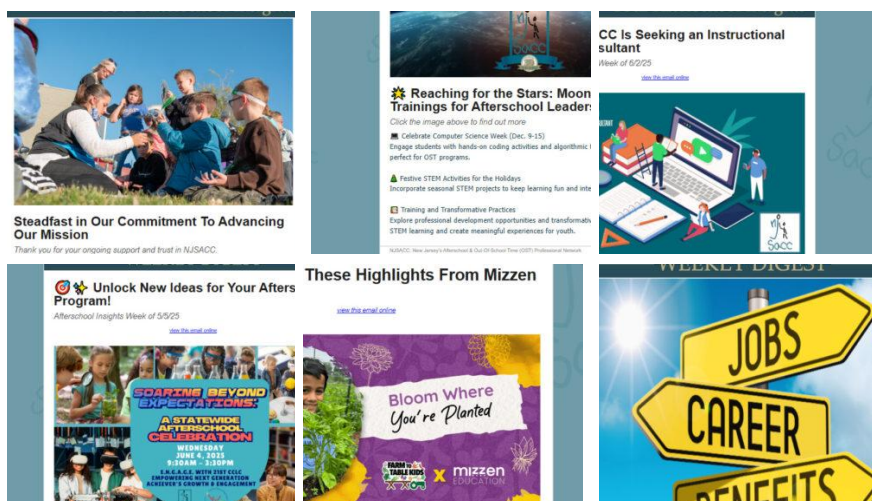
FLASH of Brilliance: Your Afterschool Insights

We changed a few things this year with our flash

- Changed platforms from Constant Contact to Pardot from Salesforce
- Updated the design and layout from our previous school-bus and blue-sky to a NJSACC branded email design
- Brought back previous highlights categories
- Brought in a few new “Newsletters” and sub-categories for better communications

What happens when you [subscribe](#)

- Daily News and Insights
- Daily Social Media Updates
- An Audience of 2000+ Afterschool and OST Providers & Advocates
- Disseminating information on Trainings, Grants, Job Opportunities and Resources



Afterschool Conversations Series



Broaden your professional networks with real conversation

Over the years, NJSACC's opportunity for networking & dynamic conversation for leaders in the field of afterschool & OST, Afterschool Conversations, has changed according to the times. New for 2025-26, NJSACC is proud to present monthly conversation topics guided by NJSACC staff & guest speakers.

Every third Thursday of the month join us for a conversation that will revolve around a range of topics starting with September's Reflections, Connections, and Steps in the Right Direction for 2025-26 and October's Recognizing, Responding to, & Preventing Child Abuse - A Conversation for OST Leadership. Stay tuned for a list of topics for upcoming months coming soon!

[Join The Conversation!](#)

National Partnerships



[See All Our Friends & Partners Here](#)



National Afterschool Association

NJSACC is the New Jersey Affiliate of the National Afterschool Association. NAA and its State Affiliates share a mutual purpose and agreement to support, develop, and advocate for Out-of-School Time professionals and the profession. NAA and its State Affiliates build connectivity among stakeholders and create opportunities for engagement to ensure a vibrant future for the Out-of-School Time profession.

OST professionals who are not currently paid NAA members and live in New Jersey, our state affiliation and annual conference registration make you eligible for a free NAA membership. If you prefer, NAA membership may be purchased directly from NAA on a sliding scale from \$25 to \$150. Membership options may be found [here](#) on the NAA website.



50 State afterschool network

NJSACC is also a proud partner of the 50 State Afterschool Network.

[See more from them here](#)



Charles stewart mott foundation

Over more than nine decades, the Mott Foundation has sought to advance and strengthen the well-being of all aspects of the community.

[See more from them here](#)

Kids Included Together (KIT)



KIT & NJSACC work together like peanut butter & jelly

[KIT](#) partners with NJSACC to provide behavior and inclusion professional development throughout the year.

[See our trainings here](#)

Million Girls Moonshot



The moonshot always sets its sights on the stars

Each month, NJSACC brings you The Million Girl Moonshot newsletter, rounding up accessible training opportunities, role models, and most importantly, STEM activities for New Jersey's Afterschool communities.



www.MillionGirlsMoonshot.org

Lights On Afterschool



8,000 Events Countrywide of High-Quality, Enriching Experiences for All Students Highlighting the Need for Afterschool and OST Programs.

New Jersey legislators and community leaders joined in celebrating “Lights On Afterschool” this year. This helped to showcase the impact Afterschool and Out of School Time Programs have on students and communities across the state. Governor Phil Murphy issued a proclamation marking October 24 as “Lights On Afterschool Day,” emphasizing the essential role afterschool programs play in supporting student learning and family stability statewide.

[Read the full article here](#)

21st CCLC Technical Assistance Grant



Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Technical Assistance Grant

For 15 years, NJSACC partners with the New Jersey Department of Education to develop and conduct capacity building training and technical assistance to the Nita M. Lowey 21st CCLC program staff and other eligible entities within New Jersey.

[Grant Yourself Access To More Information Here](#)

NJ's Quality Standards for Afterschool



Proudly helping our communities raise their standards

What are the NJ Quality Standards for Afterschool (NJQSA)?

- A resource for self-evaluation.
- Used as part of the process of continuous quality improvement.
- Includes a rubric providing descriptions of quality program performance levels.

[Learn How To Raise Your Standards Here](#)

Youth Mental Health First Aid



Not all injuries are visible, requiring a different approach to healing

Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a skills-based training that teaches OST professionals how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children and adolescents ages 12-18. NJSACC offers training in Youth MHFA at various times throughout the year.

Diane Genco Excellence in OST Award



3rd Annual Diane Genco Award for Excellence in Out-of-School Time

Now in its third year, the Diane Genco Award for Excellence in Out-of-School Time continues to highlight the importance of recognizing those who demonstrate outstanding commitment to high-quality afterschool and out-of-school time programming. Named in honor of NJSACC's founder, the award reflects a long-standing dedication to elevating the field and affirming the critical role these programs play in youth development, equity, and education.

This year's presentation took place during the annual conference, with Diane Genco in attendance — a meaningful moment that reinforced the ongoing need to celebrate and support excellence in OST. By honoring leaders who set a high standard, the award serves as both recognition and a call to action for the field as a whole.



Agency Highlights



NJSACC connected with over 900 OST professionals

- Over 900 OST Professionals were impacted through NJSACC's conferences, workshops and training opportunities.

Refocused Snapshot Second Annual Impact report

- The annual impact report quantifies NJSACC's overall impact on the OST professional community.

New agency initiatives

- Youth Mental Health First Aid Training
- OST Career Pathways Program
- Taking The Pulse Survey 2024
- Youth Advocacy Newsletter
- NEW Mini-Conferences

Welcomed 5 new Board of Trustees Members

- Joseph Licata, Chief Executive Officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lower Bergen County
- Yolanda Greene, Associate at the Taylor Law Group LLC
- Michael Fletcher, Chief of Staff and Director, SEEDS-Access Changes Everything
- Celeste Banks, Director of Government Programs, Retention, and Recruitment, Irvington Public Schools
- Robert Foster, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Club of Clifton

OST Advocacy for Afterschool

- NJSACC staff and partner OST providers attended the [2024 Afterschool for All Advocacy Day](#) on June 11th, 2024, to advocate for increased funding to support youth in OST programs.
- On Monday, March 24th, 2025 NJSACC hosted its [2nd Annual Youth Advocacy Day](#) at the New Jersey State House.

NJ Quality Standards for Afterschool included in NJCCIS

- NJSACC has partnered with the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development to include the NJQSA as a continuous program quality resource to be utilized by any state funded school-age provider, via [NJCCIS](#).
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Staff Highlights



This is

Afterschool

"The field of afterschool and out-of-school time programming will only continue to grow. Families need to work and their children need a safe place to go to when school hours are done.

NJSACC works with providers and their staff so they have the skills and knowledge needed to provide youth with a positive and enriching experience."

Patricia Pugliese
NJSACC's
Technical Assistance Specialist

Patricia Pugliese –

Our team member Patricia visited a New Jersey middle school this year, connecting with staff, observing programs, and spending time with students. She left inspired by the energy and potential of the youth she met as a reminder of why afterschool is so crucial.

TRUE STORY

HOW CREATIVITY, CONNECTION & COMMUNITY LED TO A CAREER IN OST

BY AMY MARQUIS IN CONVERSATION WITH ADAM CRUZ

Adam Cruz didn't take the typical route into the afterschool and out-of-school time field. In fact, his path was anything but traditional. Today, as Chief Operating Officer for [New Jersey's Afterschool and Out-of-School Time \(OST\) Professional Network \(NJSACC\)](#), Adam is a respected leader focused on building systems, supporting professionals, and improving outcomes for youth. But his journey into this work started somewhere very different — on a stage.

Before joining NJSACC, Adam spent years immersed in the music industry.



Adam Cruz —

Our COO, Adam Cruz, was featured in AfterSchool Today: Spring Changemakers, highlighting his unique journey into leadership and the path that led him to become a respected voice in the afterschool field. His story is an inspiring reminder that diverse experiences can shape powerful, impactful leadership.



"NJSACC advocates for all students to have equitable access to quality afterschool opportunities. In urban and rural areas of NJ, those options can be few and far between.

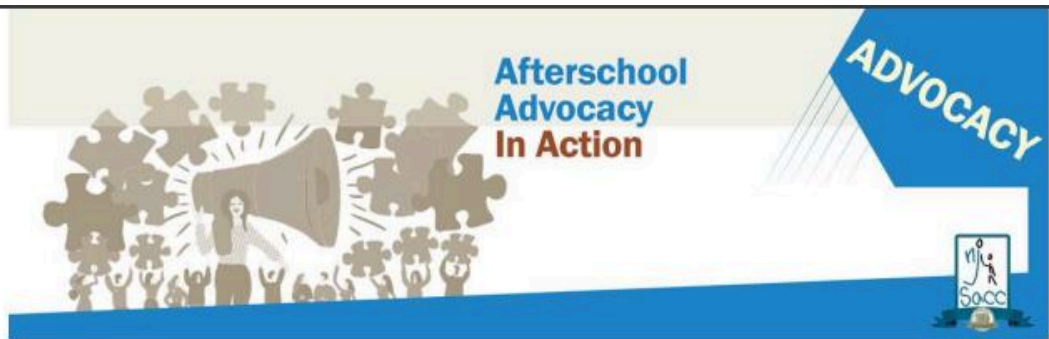
By expanding access to those opportunities, NJSACC helps to expand positive life outcomes and healthy futures for all of New Jersey's youth."

Tyneisha K. Gibbs
NJSACC's
Director of Policy
and Youth Advocacy

Tyneisha Gibbs –

Tyneisha Gibbs was honored this year as the All-Star Champion Award recipient, celebrating her dedication and impact in the afterschool field. Her recognition reminds us of the exceptional talent and leadership shaping programs across New Jersey.

Advocacy Newsletter Launch

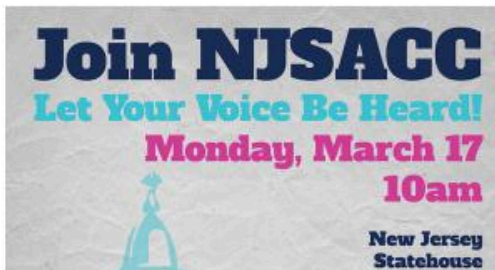


Brought to you by NJSACC: New Jersey's Afterschool & Out-of-School Time (OST) Professional Network

Afterschool Advocacy In Action

March 2025

Join NJSACC at the Trenton Statehouse! Monday March 17 - 10am



On Monday, March 17th, at 10:00 AM, the Senate Education Committee will hold a hearing on Bill S3457, which establishes the Out-of-School Time (OST) Commission in Committee Room 6, 1st Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, NJ.

NJSACC has been invited to testify, advocating for the critical need to invest in and strengthen New Jersey's OST programs.

Afterschool Advocacy In Action – A New Voice for the Field

This year, NJSACC proudly launched Afterschool Advocacy In Action, a new digital newsletter dedicated to amplifying the voices of youth, afterschool professionals, and programs across New Jersey. Created by a small but passionate team of three, the newsletter is designed to inform, inspire, and mobilize, spotlighting the critical role of afterschool programs in education, equity, and community well-being.

Each issue features real stories from the field, policy updates, and actionable steps readers can take to support OST at the local and state level. By lifting up the voices of those closest to the work, Afterschool Advocacy In Action helps turn everyday experiences into powerful advocacy tools, and reinforces the message that afterschool isn't extra; it's essential.

[Read more here](#)

Heroes and Highlights



Remember Our Heroes got Revitalized

We also took moments to pause, reflect, and remember those in our field who are no longer with us. Through the "Remember Our Heroes" initiative, we honored the legacy of afterschool champions who paved the way. Their commitment continues to inspire and guide our work every day.

[Remember with us](#)



Highlight Your Program had new light shining bright

This year, we reinvigorated our “Highlight Your Program” initiative — bringing fresh energy and visibility to a beloved tradition that hadn’t been active in recent years. Designed to showcase the incredible stories, people, and creativity within New Jersey’s afterschool programs, this initiative returned with new momentum and a renewed sense of purpose. Programs across the state shared vibrant photos, uplifting staff shout-outs, and student-driven projects that reflected the heart of OST. It was a joyful reminder of just how much talent, passion, and innovation exists in every corner of our community — and a testament to why afterschool matters.

[See the spotlights here](#)

Follow Our Socials To Stay In The Loop



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[Instagram: @NJSACC](#)

[X \(Twitter\): @NJSACC](#)

[LinkedIn: @NJSACC](#)

[YouTube: @NJSACC1](#)
