



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

## KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON AFTER SCHOOL DAY

2021

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the State of North Carolina stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they; provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help children realize their full potential, support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive when they are out of their classrooms, 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, lastly engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

**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 as well as address their academic, social, and emotional needs; and

**WHEREAS**, afterschool programs provide engaging, hands-on learning and opportunities to connect with caring adults and peers; during the pandemic, programs have innovated to provide remote learning support, virtual programming, care for children of essential workers, meal support, wellness check-ins, and more; and

**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; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 25 million families report that they would enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were available; and

**WHEREAS**, many afterschool programs across the country are facing operating challenges so severe that they are forced to consider closing their doors and turning off their lights; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that help our children learn and grow, while helping them develop the skills essential for success in life and work;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER**, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 28, 2021, as **"KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON AFTER SCHOOL DAY"** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-seventh day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.