



April 2015

Help Preserve 21st CCLC Funding for Afterschool

The Senate is currently crafting legislation to replace No Child Left Behind (or the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, ESEA). The draft legislation proposes moving programs into larger block grants - and the 21st Century Community Learning Center program (21st CCLC) is on this list. 21st CCLC funds would be rolled up with other funds and made accessible solely to school districts and state education agencies to use for *purposes other than afterschool programs and community schools*.

For us in Illinois, this change means that **lead partner agencies could no longer access 21st CCLC funds** as direct grantees. It also means that 21st CCLC funds would be able to be used for a wide range of activities and *we would lose our biggest support for afterschool programs and community schools*. This is especially alarming given the fact that the only other funding we have to support this work - Teen REACH - is on the chopping block.

The good news is that Senator Mark Kirk is on the Senate HELP Committee, where a lot of these decisions are being made, so he can play a key role in preserving Federal funding for afterschool programs. ***But he needs to hear from YOU.***

Make your voice heard in support of 21st CCLC funding and Federal support for afterschool programs. Use this [sample script](#) and call Sen. Kirk's office today.

Prefer to Tweet about it?

Use one of these sample messages to ask for Sen. Kirk's support.

[Sample Tweet 1](#)

#21CCLC provides #afterschool vital programs to low-income students & families in #IL.

@SenatorKirk, support #communityschools #Invest3to6!

[Sample Tweet 2](#)

@SenatorKirk, #Invest3to6 to keep kids safe and engaged in #afterschool programs.

#Communityschools can't afford #21CCLC cuts. #ESEA

[Sample Tweet 3](#)

84% of parents support public funding for #afterschool programs. @SenatorKirk, keep

#communityschools strong in #IL! Restore #21CCLC!

[Sample Tweet 4](#)

@SenatorKirk -1M kids in #IL could benefit from #afterschool programs. Restore #21CCLC funding so #communityschools can meet this demand!

[Sample Tweet 5](#)

In #IL, 65,000 students & 11,000 adults count on #communityschools each day. @SenatorKirk restore #21CCLC funding! #Invest3to6 #ESEA

[Sample Tweet 6](#)

#21CCLC allows #communityschools to *[personalize this Tweet!]*, @SenatorKirk #Invest3to6 #ESEA



33 West Grand Avenue, Suite 300
Chicago, Illinois 60654
(312) 836-0854
www.ilcommunityschools.org