

Afterschool and Youth Advocacy Day

On March 14th, 2007, over 300 people attended Afterschool and Youth Advocacy Day at the State House to rally support for the out-of-school time field. This "Lobby Day" was organized by the Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership with support by BOSTnet to seek a greater investment in out-of-school time programs from policymakers. All of the featured speakers including Attorney General Martha Coakley, Senator Thomas McGee, Suffolk County Juvenile Court Judge Leslie E. Harris, and Everett Chief of Police, Steven Mazzie, emphasized the value of out-of-school time programs, including creating safe places for kids to go after school and giving kids the opportunities to stay out of trouble, get support in academics, social skills, and just have fun. The highlight of the event was student speaker, David Perez, a peer leader at La Vida, Inc., who spoke eloquently of the difference that afterschool programming has made in his life and the positive impact it has had on keeping him out of trouble and achieving both academically and socially. Following the event many staff met with legislators to lobby them in support of investing the out-of-school time field.