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More Lights on After School for Massachusetts Students

State ranks #5 in America After 3PM survey of how children spend their time between 3pm and 6pm - good news in advance of 15th annual Lights On Afterschool on Oct. 23, 2014.

Lexington, MA, October 22, 2014 - For 10 years, America After 3PM has studied how children spend the hours between 3pm and 6pm, the hours after school ends and before parents typically return home from work. It highlights trends in afterschool program participation and measures parent satisfaction with existing afterschool programs.

The 2014 edition of [America After 3PM](#) shows Massachusetts ranking in fifth place, due in part to the high average amount of time per week children spend in an afterschool program and the fact that 19% of MA children participate in an afterschool program - above the national average. 92% of Massachusetts parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program, and 89% support public funding for afterschool programs, yet there are more than 350,000 Massachusetts children not in an afterschool program who would be enrolled if a program were available to them.

The 2014 results were released in conjunction with the annual Lights On Afterschool, a program launched in October 2000 that celebrates afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families and communities. The annual event is designed to draw attention to the many ways afterschool programs support students by offering them opportunities to learn new things—such as science, community service, robotics, Tae Kwon Do and poetry—and discover new skills. The events send a powerful message that millions more kids need quality afterschool programs.

“Parents and educators alike recognize that any after-school program helps with social skills and generally improves performance in school, but we feel there is even more that can be done with the valuable after-school time,” says Leonid Tunik, Founder and CEO of Empow Studios. “Empow After-School Club turns this time into supercharged learning time that harnesses the kids’ natural affinity for technology, creativity, and playfulness.”

Since opening its Lexington, MA Studio in October 2013, Empow Studios had a lot of requests for an after-school program for Lexington students. In September 2014, it launched the After School Club, for children in Lexington and several surrounding towns. Kids get homework assistance, enjoy arts and STEM enrichment, and can attend any class offered in the Studio for free.

About Empow Studios

Empow Studios, Inc. operates in Lexington, MA and the greater Boston area and is committed to creating transformative technology experiences that empower young learners. Students discover their passions and make lasting contributions to their own future lives and to the world around them. Empow offers the After-School Club, summer and school vacation camps, classes, and birthday parties in the Lexington studio and also by partnering with community organizations. For more information, visit www.empow.me.

About the Afterschool Alliance

Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is the founding chair of Lights On Afterschool, a position he first held in 2001. Lights On Afterschool is organized by the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children have access to quality afterschool programs. More information on the Afterschool Alliance, Lights On Afterschool and America After 3PM is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

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