



EL PASO COUNTY STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, the people of the County of El Paso, Texas, stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical, and academic skills;
- Support working families by ensuring children are safe and productive when they are not at school;
- Build stronger communities and promote positive relationships by involving students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of young people;
- Engage families, schools, and community partners in advancing youth welfare;
- Offer young people many demonstrated positive benefits, particularly in their academic studies, social and emotional health, and their overall physical wellbeing; and,

WHEREAS, El Paso afterschool programs have responded to the COVID-19 crisis with innovative virtual programming to keep kids engaged, childcare to help essential workers get to work, meals and learning supports to make sure no child is hungry or falling behind, and check-ins to safeguard youth and families' wellbeing; and,

WHEREAS, the County of El Paso is honored to be home to several community organizations that provide leadership in youth health and education and believe quality afterschool programs help our children become successful adults -- including the Paso del Norte Health Foundation's BOOST initiative, the United Way of El Paso County, and the BOOST Network; and,

WHEREAS, studies show that young people who participate in afterschool programs perform better in school, develop leadership skills, and are less likely to engage in risky behaviors like smoking, drinking, or sexual activity compared to their peers; and,

WHEREAS, more than 36,000 El Paso young people participated in an afterschool program in 2019 yet more than 50,000 did not and could have benefited from them; and,

WHEREAS, Lights on Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs, will be held this year on October 22, 2020, to promote the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and,

WHEREAS, the County of El Paso is committed to the health and safety of all young people and to providing expanded learning opportunities to help close the achievement gap and better prepare young people for future success:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court do hereby declare October 22, 2020 as:

"Lights on Afterschool Day"

And, enthusiastically endorse innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure they lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

SIGNED, this 26th day of October 2020

Commissioner Carlos Leon, Pct. 1

Commissioner David Stout, Pct. 2

Commissioner Vincent M. Perez, Pct. 3

Commissioner Carl L. Robinson, Pct. 4

County Judge Ricardo A. Samaniego