



**Idaho  
Out-of-School  
Network**



**Communications Plan 2024**



# Objectives:

1. Increase public understanding of afterschool and summer youth programs (K-12) and benefits to Idaho families, communities and workforce.
  2. Increase bi-partisan legislative support for youth OST programs.
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1. More fully engage Idaho's OST professionals in ION programs.
  2. Publicize accomplishments of OST Champions

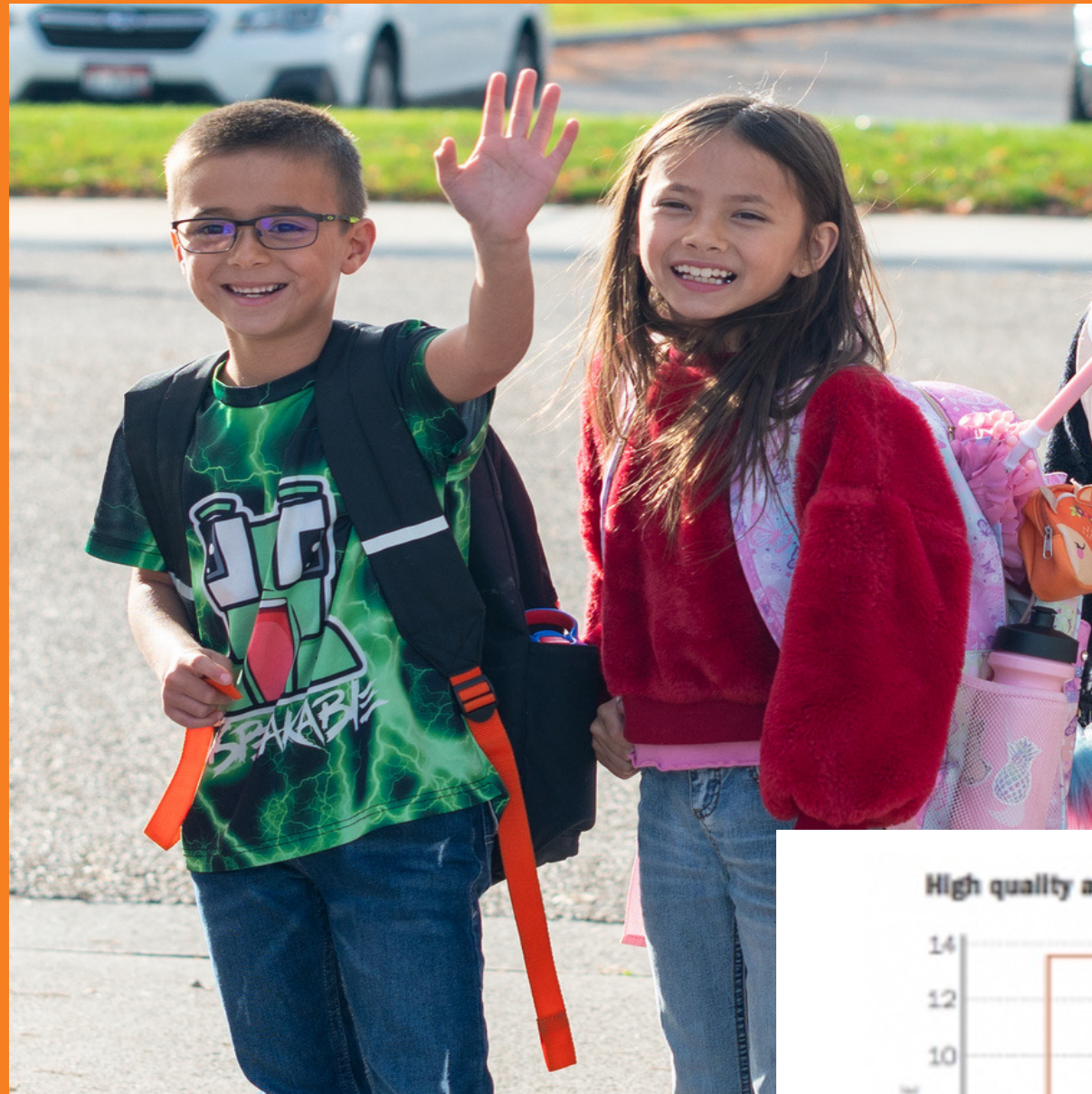


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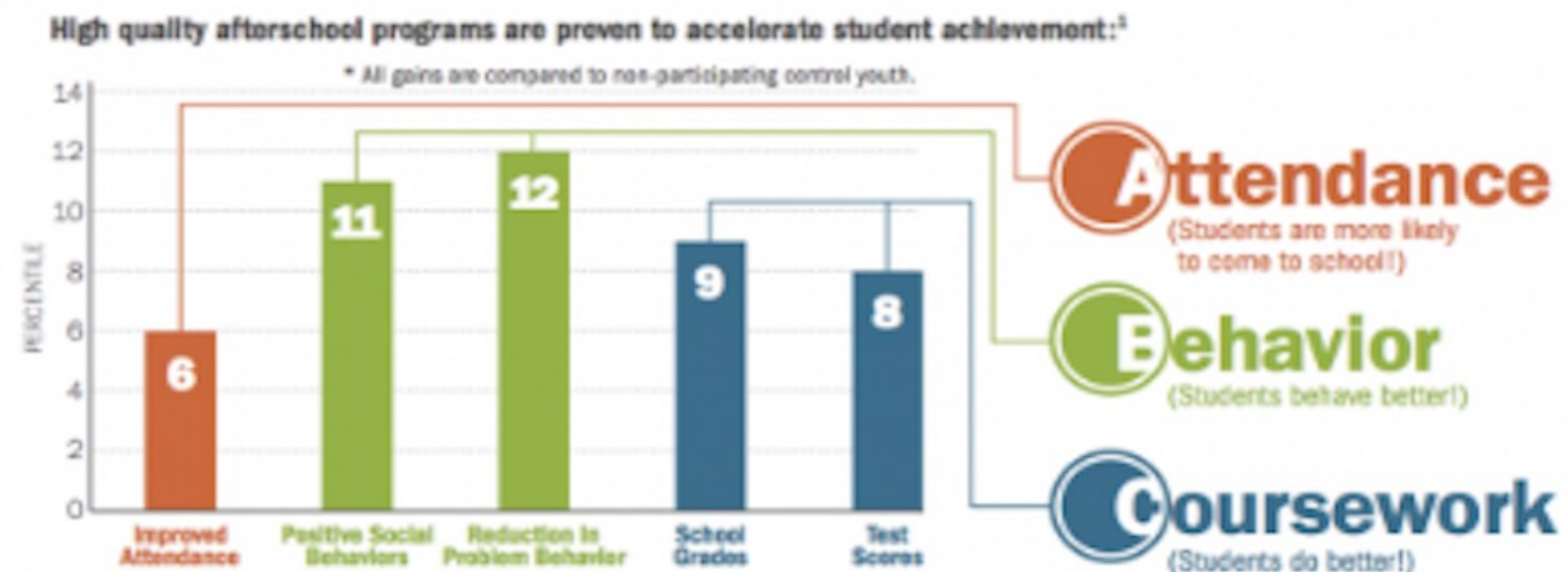


# What is out-of-school time?



Kids spend 80% of their waking hours outside of their school day.

Youth in OST programs outperform their peers in reading scores, homework completion, class participation and improved behavior





# Key Message #1:

## Afterschool means opportunity



ION has registered more than 500 OST programs which are attended by more than 30,000 youth (K-12)

For every child in an afterschool program, 4 more are waiting to get in



# Kids need more opportunities

Across the country, one in five kids are alone or unsupervised afterschool

The hours of 2 pm to 6 pm are peak hours for juvenile crime





## Key Message #2:

# Idaho needs to Focus on Fridays



50% of Idaho school districts no longer have school on Fridays.



Many programs such as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers, Extension 4-H, Boys & Girls Clubs and rural libraries focus on Friday youth programs to fill the gap left by reduced school schedules





# ION Success:

Since 2014, ION has trained more than 4,000 afterschool and summer educators.

ION builds the quality of youth programs and benchmarks professional best practices.

Membership is free to staff working in libraries, STEM programs, youth clubs, YMCA's, Boys and Girls Clubs, 4H programs and more:

[www.idahooutofschool.org](http://www.idahooutofschool.org)





# **Key Message #3: Keep the Lights on for Afterschool**



**Afterschool programs desperately need more resources.**

**Today, there are no state funds available for afterschool programming.**



# Key Message #4: ION is the Center for Excellence Afterschool





# Call to Action: Professionals

**Join Now**



**Visit the ION website**

**Sign Up for the Learning Academy**

**Stay Connected**

**Attend a training event near you**



# Citizens: How to Help



- Ask your local school district or Municipality to invest in youth programs
- Support your local program
- Find out more at [www.idahooutofschool.org](http://www.idahooutofschool.org)



# Elected Officials: How to Help

**Support community schools and funding for K-12 afterschool and summer programs**

**Arrange a site visit with ION**

**Attend a Lights On Afterschool event**

