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**School Superintendents Overwhelmingly Agree:
Afterschool Programs Raise Student Achievement**

*First Champions® and NAA 'Out-of-School-Time' Survey Reveals
the Importance and Effectiveness of Extended Learning*

DENVER, Sept. XX, 2011 – Out-of-school time programs have tremendous benefits in educating today's students, and a recent survey conducted by leading out-of-school time provider [Champions®](#) and the [National AfterSchool Association](#) (NAA) confirms that elementary and middle school superintendents find them highly effective in improving student performance. With 82 percent of school superintendents across the country saying these programs are important, the survey affirmed that before- and after-school offerings improve learning and social interaction and are highly successful at supplementing in-class curriculum.

"The majority of superintendents surveyed said out-of-school time programs can improve student achievement in important disciplines including math and reading," said Shelley Lambert, Vice President of Operations, Champions. "The academic benefits are extremely clear, and we see this demonstrated daily through the extended learning offerings we provide to more than 400 school sites across the country."

Improved Performance

School superintendents were in near unanimous agreement on the improvements students make from attending out-of-school time programs.

- Improving in-classroom academic performance **(93%)**
- Improving in-classroom engagement **(92%)**
- Increasing social interaction skills **(92%)**
- Helping with homework **(88%)**
- Improving study skills **(87%)**
- Improving test scores **(86%)**

Motivations to Offering Programs

School superintendents also overwhelmingly agreed on the motivations for offering out-of-school time programs in their districts:

- Improving in classroom performance and/or test scores **(92%)**
- Offering academic opportunities for students **(91%)**

- Providing a safe place for students **(89%)**
- Providing teachers with additional opportunities to engage with students **(84%)**

“The data from our recent survey shows the high value superintendents place on afterschool programs and why they are critical in improving the overall education of students today,” said Dr. Paul Young, President and CEO, National AfterSchool Association. “Yet despite their effectiveness, superintendents in all types of schools face many challenges in offering high-quality, robust afterschool programs for their students. We at the NAA are committed to helping them overcome these challenges.”

Additional Findings

- **Three in five** superintendents anticipate changes in funding for out-of-school time programs in the next **one to five years**:
 - Among those who anticipate a change in funding, **71 percent expect a decrease** while **29 percent expect an increase**
- The top out-of-school time programs currently offered by school superintendents include:
 - Physical activities or sports **(90%)**
 - Tutoring **(89%)**
 - Homework help **(87%)**
 - Literacy programs **(81%)**
 - Recreation based activities **(80%)**

About the Champions® and NAA Out-of-School Time Superintendent Survey

The phone survey was designed and analyzed by Ketchum Global Research Network and fielded by Braun Research. The survey reached 100 superintendents or associate/assistant superintendents (with a quota of 50 who are 0-40% FRPL) from June 30 – July 18, 2011, and has a margin of error of +/-9.77%.

About the National AfterSchool Association (NAA)

The National AfterSchool Association (www.naaweb.org) is the leading voice of the afterschool profession dedicated to the development, education and care of children and youth during their out-of-school hours. The only professional association in the afterschool field, NAA represents over 8,000 members and 38 state affiliate organizations.

About Champions®

Champions is a leading out-of-school time provider and offers a variety of education programs for school-age children. Champions programs are offered at more than 400 sites in 19 states. For more information, visit www.discoverchampions.com.

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