

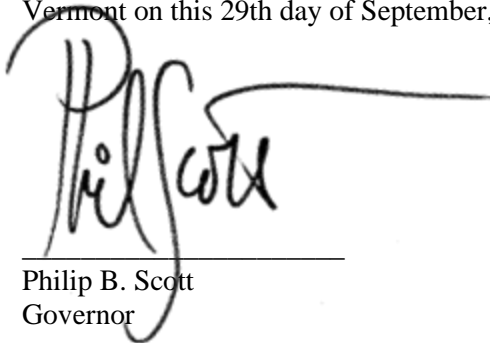
State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Vermont is 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 their children are safe and productive when they are out of their classrooms; build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults; and engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and
- WHEREAS,** during the COVID-19 public health emergency, afterschool programs have risen to the moment to support youth by: innovating to provide virtual programming to keep kids engaged, caring for children of essential workers, providing meals and learning supports, and checking in on youth and families' well-being; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont has provided significant leadership in community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and
- WHEREAS,** Lights On Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 22, 2020, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and
- WHEREAS,** 19.4 million families report that they would enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were available; and
- WHEREAS,** many afterschool programs across the country are facing operating challenges and funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim October 22, 2020 as

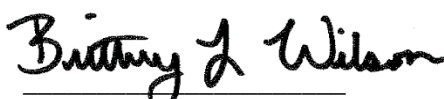
LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 29th day of September, A.D. 2020.


Philip B. Scott
Governor





Brittny L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs