Summer break for children often brings to mind family vacations, camp, trips to museums and libraries, and an array of additional enriching activities with families and with summer learning programs. Unfortunately, research shows that the summer months can also be a time when children experience summer learning loss, falling behind in key areas like reading and math. Summer learning programs often play a critical role during the summer months to inspire learning, provide academically enriching activities, keep kids safe and healthy, and support working families.

In State, 34% of families say at least one child attended a summer program in 2013. However, the demand for summer programs exceeds the current rate of participation, with 50% of Massachusetts families reporting that they would like their children to participate.

Support for additional summer learning programs is vital to give all children the opportunity to take part in fun and engaging activities; find new interests like cooking and video game design; explore their community’s libraries, museums and parks; receive nutritious summer meals; and stem summer learning loss. And Massachusetts parents agree, with 88% supporting public funding for summer learning programs.

For more information about afterschool and summer learning programs in Massachusetts, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM or contact:

Ardith Wieworka at the Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership awieworka@massafterschool.org · 617-338-0054
34% of families in Massachusetts say at least one child attended a summer learning program in 2013, compared to 30% in 2008.

50% of families in Massachusetts say they wanted their children to be enrolled in a summer learning program in 2014.

71% of parents in Massachusetts agree that it is important for their children to have summer activities that help them maintain academic skills and learn new things.

88% of Massachusetts parents support public funding for summer learning programs, compared to 84% in 2009.

Massachusetts findings from America After 3PM are based on in-depth interviews with 276 Massachusetts households with children, completed by way of an online survey using a blend of national consumer panels. Shugoll Research collected and analyzed the data for America After 3PM. In order to participate, respondents had to live in the United States and be the guardians of a school-age child living in their household. All interviews were completed between February 28 and April 17, 2014.