

# **EDUCATION**

## **News & Notes**

### **Studies Give After School Programs High Marks ㊟**

(NAPSA)—After school programs have been the subject of several studies and evaluations aimed at determining how well programs are serving students and their families.

In nearly all cases, after school programs across the nation have received high marks. According to the Afterschool Alliance, several comprehensive evaluations have confirmed that after school programs help children achieve academically, keep them safe during the sometimes-perilous hours after schools close each afternoon, and help their working parents solve the dilemma of finding child care.

A study of one Los Angeles program, LA's BEST, showed that participation led to better school attendance, which in turn related to higher academic achievement on standardized tests in math, reading and language arts.

In a Houston study, after school programs helped participating students to improve significantly in science and fine arts.

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring that all children and youth have access to after school programs by the year 2010.