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**NYC DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AWARDS
NEW AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS AT 927 SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY
CENTERS**

171 unique community-based organizations will oversee more than 103,000 elementary and middle school seats in the largest equity-driven expansion of after-school in more than a decade

NEW YORK — TODAY, New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) Commissioner Sandra Escamilla-Davies announced the awarding of contracts to operate 806 Comprehensive After School System of New York City (COMPASS) programs at public schools in all five boroughs. Awardees for 121 programs at community centers were unveiled on April 6. The awards are the result of the largest Request for Proposals (RFP) and first major expansion of the City’s after-school system in over ten years. Annual COMPASS funding of \$760 million includes an unprecedented expansion of 10,000 new seats for elementary school students in fall 2026, in addition to the 5,000 which launched last fall. The investments will help stabilize staffing, strengthen programming and support the network’s workforce. For a map of awardees, visit nyc.gov/afterschool.

“Learning doesn’t end when the school day does. This expansion of after-school programming will give more young New Yorkers a safe place to learn, grow and build community beyond the classroom,” said **Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani**. “By creating more after-school seats, we are supporting working families across our city while investing in our children’s social and emotional development. Every young person should be empowered to explore and grow — in school and outside of it.”

“This is a historic moment for New York City’s after-school system and an important step toward strengthening the ecosystem that supports young people, families and communities. After-school is not just a set of programs, it is a network of community-based organizations, schools and partners working together every day to create meaningful opportunities for young people to learn, belong and grow beyond the school day, while supporting working families and strengthening communities. This investment helps stabilize that network, expand access and build a stronger, more equitable after-school system for the young people and families who rely on it,” said **DYCD Commissioner Sandra Escamilla-Davies**.

“As we expand access to high-quality after-school programming across New York City, we are deepening our commitment to supporting the whole child academically, socially and emotionally,” said **NYC Public Schools Chancellor Kamar H. Samuels**. These programs provide safe, engaging spaces where young people can explore their interests, build relationships and continue learning beyond the school day. We are proud to partner with DYCD and community-based organizations to ensure that every student, regardless of zip code, has access to enriching opportunities that help them thrive in school and in life.”

COMPASS after-school programs offer young people:

- Free access to safe academics, recreation, enrichment and cultural experiences.
- Opportunities to build skills, confidence and leadership.
- Safe, supportive spaces where they can learn, connect and grow beyond the school day.
- Hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) learning.
- Stronger social-emotional support so they can build confidence, strengthen relationships, develop leadership skills and practice problem-solving.
- Inclusive, welcoming environments.

The awards advance Mayor Mamdani’s vision for a more affordable and equitable city. By updating provider rates and stabilizing the COMPASS network, a critical part of the City’s childcare infrastructure is strengthened. This helps ensure that working families can rely on free, high-quality after-school programs that ease financial pressure while providing safe, enriching spaces for young people.

DYCD reviewed more than 3,700 proposals submitted for school-based and center-based competitions as part of an open, competitive process.

Award highlights include:

- Contracts for 95,841 seats in public schools and 7,840 seats in community centers across 59 Community Districts.
- Forty-one new organizations are entering the COMPASS provider network for school-based programs and 16 new providers for community center-based programming. New providers are a mix of smaller, midsize and large community-based organizations.
- Seventy-one new elementary school-based programs and 13 new community center-based elementary programs (approximately 9,500 seats) in communities where families have historically faced the greatest barriers to access.
- New program model includes requirements for Social Emotional Learning (SEL), career exploration & future readiness, and inclusion.

“Today’s COMPASS announcement is what happens when government listens to the families and frontline workers closest to the issue. In addition to the awarding of new contracts, the 15,000 new seats through FY28, on top of the 5,000 launched last fall, represent the largest expansion of New York City’s after-school system in more than a decade. As co-chair of the Commission on Universal After-School, I’ve watched a coalition of parents, educator and CBO leaders make this case for years. I’m grateful to Commissioner Escamilla-Davies, the Department of Youth and Community Development and our partners for their leadership in making this vision a reality. United Way of New York City is proud to stand alongside them as this work delivers for tens of thousands of elementary and middle school students,” said **Grace Bonilla, president and CEO, United Way of New York City.**

“As a lifelong educator and as the leader of a library system that supports children each day through homework help, literacy initiatives and other learning programs, I have seen firsthand the profound impact meaningful opportunities beyond the school day can have on their lives. This expansion of COMPASS programming is an important investment in New York City’s

children, their families and our communities, and I am grateful to Commissioner Escamilla-Davies, DYCD and the many partners and advocates who have helped make it possible,” said **Dennis M. Walcott, co-chair, Commission on Universal After-School, and CEO, Queens Public Library.**

“Strong after-school programs are the beginning of a lifelong impact for young people and the adults who care for them. This expansion is an investment that will benefit communities across our city and provide opportunities that reaffirm our belief in investing where it matters most,” said **Saskia Trill, president & CEO, Expanded Schools.**

“After-school programs are a vital part of our city’s education and youth development ecosystem. This investment from the Department of Youth and Community Development expands access to high-quality programs that help young people learn, grow and thrive. By continuing to prioritize program quality and workforce support, DYCD is laying the foundation for better outcomes for youth across New York City,” said **Alison Overseth, chief executive officer, Partnership for After School Education (PASE).**

“After-school helps me stay focused and out of trouble. Instead of going home alone, I’m in a positive environment where I can learn, hang out with friends and build new skills,” said **Noah, sixth grade student.**

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2026, COMPASS is the nation’s largest municipally funded after-school system. Through a network of providers, COMPASS offers high quality programs that have a strong balance of academics, recreation, enrichment and cultural activities to support and strengthen the overall development of youth. COMPASS aims to help young people build skills to support their academic achievement, raise their confidence and cultivate their leadership skills through service learning and other civic engagement opportunities. For more information, visit nyc.gov/dycd.

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