"Right now three quarters of the fastest growing occupations require more than a high school diploma, and yet just over half of our citizens have that level of education. We have one of the highest high school drop out rates of any industrialized nation, and half of the students who begin college never finish. This is a prescription for economic decline because we know the countries that out teach us today will out compete us tomorrow." - President Barack Obama, Feb. 24, 2009

ASAS "We Are Ready"
Middle to High School Transition Program

AFTER-SCHOOL ALL-STARS IS WORKING TO ADDRESS AMERICA'S HIGH SCHOOL DROP OUT CRISIS

According to Grad Nation **www.gradnation.org,** a 2008 recent research report by Professor Robert Balfanz of Johns Hopkins University, John Bridgeland, CEO, Civic Enterprises and America's Promise, America is experiencing an unprecedented high school drop out crisis. Their research shows:

A Severe Problem for the Country

- Each year almost one third of all public high school students – 1.2 million – fail to graduate with their class. One student every 26 seconds drops out of high school.

A Severe Problem for Big Cities

- Approximately 2,000 urban high schools (15% of all U.S. high schools) produce 50% of all US dropouts. These high schools are referred to as dropout factories.
- Dropout factories are responsible for nearly 2/3 of minority dropouts.

A Severe Problem for Low-Income, Minority Students

- Almost 50% of African-American, Latino/a and Native Americans in public schools fail to graduate.
- National High School Center research shows African-American and Latino/a students repeat ninth grade 2-3 times more often than their white peers.
- 40% of dropouts in low-income, urban high schools left after ninth grade, compared to 27% in low poverty districts.

A Severe Problem for Middle School Students

- Many middle school students enter high school unprepared and end up failing and having to repeat ninth grade; leading to the "9th grade bulge."
- Many students who struggle to repeat ninth grade dropout before they make it to the 10th grade; leading to the "10th grade dip."
- Up to 40% of ninth grade students in cities with the highest dropout rates repeat ninth grade, but only 10–15% of those repeaters go on to graduate.

Consequences of Dropping Out

Research shows dropouts are more likely than high school graduates to be:

- Unemployed
- In poor health
- On public assistance
- 8 times as likely as high school graduates to serve time in prison
- High school dropouts earn $1 million less over a lifetime compared to college graduate

In other words, dropping out has the potential to be a million dollar mistake.

EARLY WARNING SIGNS THAT A STUDENT WILL DROP OUT

Most dropouts send out warning signs, giving us ample time to intervene. Common misperception is that dropping out of high school is an unpredictable reaction to a life event or circumstance. The truth is most students who dropout have patterns of failing grades, poor attendance and behavior.

Attendance: 6th-10th graders missing from 10-40 days of school or more are sending loud distress signals.
Behavior: Students who are suspended need support to get on track, but so do students who are punished for not completing assignments, fighting, acting out and not paying attention.
Course Performance: Middle school students who receive an F in math or English or two or more F's in any course are off track. D's and a low GPA are also cause for concern.

These are three areas in which ASAS programs have proven to make a positive impact in student lives.

WHY ASAS IS POSITIONED TO RESPOND TO AMERICA'S HIGH DROP OUT CRISIS

ASAS Serves Students Who Are Most Vulnerable

- All 400+ ASAS program sites are in large, urban school districts
- 87% of 80,000 ASAS students qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch, 90% are students of color.
- 11 of 13 ASAS cities have high school graduation rates below 55%.

ASAS Focuses on Middle School Students

- 70% of ASAS participants across the country are middle school age
- Many ASAS youth attend middle schools which feed into "dropout factories."

ASAS Programs Improve Attendance, Behavior and Core Grades

- Evaluations of ASAS programs in Atlanta, Chicago, Orlando, Miami and San Antonio demonstrate that program participants, compared to peer students, exhibited much stronger attendance and behavior
- ASAS programs in Chicago, Atlanta, New York and San Antonio demonstrate gains in student achievement in core reading and math subjects.

ASAS Programs Build Connections to Real Life

- ASAS Enrichment classes develop students' skills and connect what they learn in dance, cooking, film, etc. to potential college majors and careers they can pursue later in life
- ASAS programs work with local colleges and students and organize fieldtrips to college campuses.
- Culminating service projects for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Global Youth Service Day allow students to realize they can use the skills they learn to combat local problems.

ASAS Brings Youth Into Contact with Positive Adults

- ASAS hires staff from the same communities as students who can serve as role models
- ASAS We Are Ready Program will employ high school volunteers who can build relationships with students, tell them what to expect in high school and support them when they arrive on campus.

CORE COMPONENTS OF THE ASAS "WE ARE READY PROGRAM" FOR 8th GRADE STUDENTS

ASAS is piloting the "We Are Ready" Middle to High School Transition Program for 8th graders. Following feedback and input from researchers, local staff and program participants, the program contains seven core components with fun, interactive activities on the following topics:

Early Warning Sign Detection

- ASAS staff will be trained to work with school officials to identify and recruit students displaying early dropout warning signs.
- Staff will intervene and help students develop personal We Are Ready plans.

Parent and Family Engagement: ASAS staff will hold parent nights focused on:

- The dropout crisis and warning signs
- The key differences between middle and high school
- Different high school choices
- Data of lifetime income between high school graduates and dropouts
- Tips for supporting their children academically through high school
- Tips for providing study skills

High School Readiness

- Why does high school matter?
- Different high schools to attend
- Life as a high school student panel
- The graduate advertising campaign
- Setting up a high school fair
- High School 4 year planning

Organization and Study Skills

- How I Learn
- Class participation
- Studying for a Test
- Time Management: Short Term Planning
- Getting organized
- Note taking
- Self-advocacy

Options After High School

- Choices post-high school graduation
- Intro to college applications and financial aid
- Colleges around the country
- Admissions Panel
- Setting up a college fair or visit
- Find your college major

Career Exploration

- Build your resume
- Interest-Career-Match
- Designing your own business
- Budgeting and paying for the life you want
- Team Building games
- Career panel or work fieldtrip
- Networking and interviewing skills

Perspectives – Students conduct interviews with:

- Successful high school graduates from their school in college and the work force
- Human Resources executives from local companies
- High school drop outs: challenges in the workforce without a diploma
- Success in high school 10^{th} and 11^{th} graders (mentors for incoming 9^{th} graders)

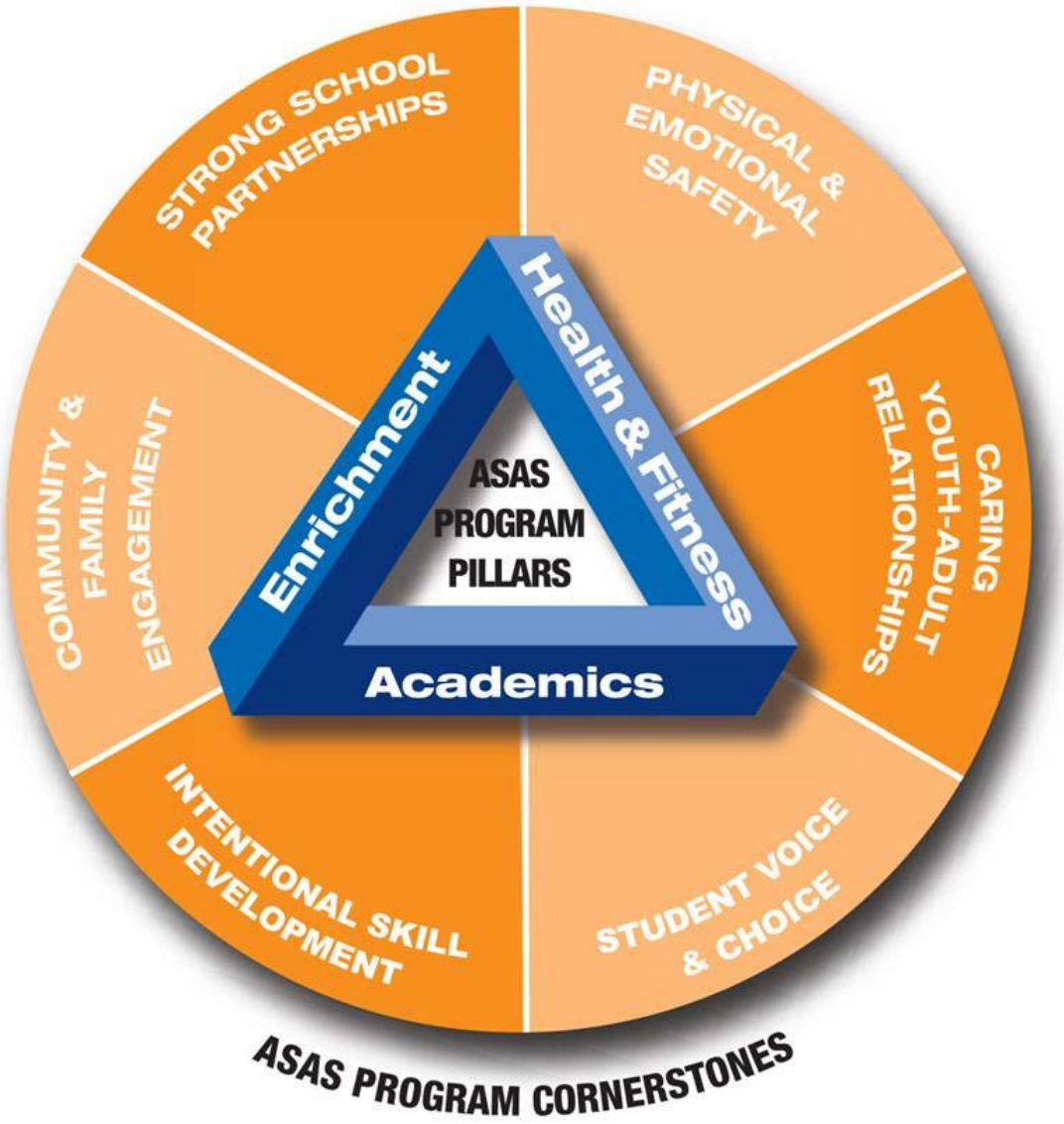
From Program Providers to Solution Providers

After-School All-Stars provides free, daily, comprehensive after-school programs that keep children safe and help them succeed in school and life.

Who ASAS Serves

- 81,404 students
- 453 schools in 12 cities from NYC to Hawaii
- 451 schools are Title I
- 87% of kids qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch
- 50 / 50 gender split
- 63% Middle school students, 36% Elem, 1% High
- 51% Latino, 32% Black, 10% White, 5% Asian, 2% other

The ASAS National Program Model



What we do is great but America is asking more from us…

ASAS National Initiatives

WE ARE READY

SPORTS AS A HOOK

LIFE SERVICE ACTION

C·E·O

CAREER EXPLORATION OPPORTUNITIES

America's High School Dropout Crisis

- 1.2 million – fail to graduate with their class.
- 2,000 urban high schools (15% of all U.S. high schools) produce 50% of all US dropouts.
- Dropout factories are responsible for nearly 2/3rds of minority dropouts.
- Up to 40% of ninth grade students in cities with the highest dropout rates repeat ninth grade, but only 10-15% of those repeaters go on to graduate.
- Dropouts are more likely to be unemployed, in poor health, on public assistance, earn $1 million less over a lifetime
- 8 times more likely to serve time in prison

ASAS We Are Ready

- Middle to High School Transition
- CampUs Programs
- High School Options Fair

Backwards Life Plan

Career

- How did you choose the profession you're in now? How did you learn about it?

- If you weren't doing this job, what other career would you be in?

College

- How did you choose your college and your major?

- Who was your favorite professor or class or memory and why?

8-9th Grade

- What was most important to you in middle school?
- In eighth grade what did you think you wanted to be when you grew up?
- What was high school like for you?

Write down 3 students whose…

- Attendance
- Behavior
- Course Performance
- …Have improved because of your program

The Crisis is Solveable

We can identify Early Warning Signs

Attendance – 6th to 10th graders who miss more than 10, 20 and 40 or more days of school

Behavior: students who are punished for not completing assignments, fighting, acting out, not paying attention.

Course Performance –core courses, math and English

WE ARE READY

- A middle to high school transition resource guide
- Interactive activities for 5 key topics:
  - Engaging Parents and Families
  - High School Readiness
  - Study Skills
  - Options After High School
  - Career Exploration

High School Readiness

3.1 Why Does High School Matter?

Options After High School

5.4 College Admissions Panel

Design Your School

- Name
- Location
- Size
- Tuition
- Majors/Specializations
- Extracurricular Activities
- Mascot

Carlos			
Maria			
Eric			
Martin			
Brice			
Saha			
Emily			
Catherine			
Keshia			
Becca			

Career Exploration

6.2 Interest-Career Match

Cards that Are Dealt

Dropouts

College Graduates

Thank you!

Please contact us anytime!

www.afterschoolallstars.org