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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026 AS "OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME MONTH" IN THE STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Shallcross Smith, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale,  
Ajello, Fogarty, Handy, Kislak, Bennett, and Fellela

Date Introduced: April 30, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Out-of-school time programs, including afterschool and summer learning  
2 programs, provide safe, supportive, and enriching environments for children and youth during  
3 non-school hours; and

4 WHEREAS, Such programs play a critical role in supporting the academic, social, and  
5 emotional development of young people, helping them build essential life skills, improve school  
6 engagement, and explore new interests and career pathways; and

7 WHEREAS, Out-of-school time programs are especially vital in supporting youth mental  
8 health and overall well-being, providing structured environments where young people can  
9 develop positive relationships, experience a sense of belonging, and build resilience through  
10 meaningful engagement with peers and trusted adults; and

11 WHEREAS, Research demonstrates that high-quality out-of-school time programs  
12 contribute to improved student outcomes, reduced risk behaviors, and stronger communities; and

13 WHEREAS, In Rhode Island, the demand for out-of-school time programming continues  
14 to exceed available resources, highlighting the importance of continued investment and support to  
15 ensure access for all youth; and

16 WHEREAS, Organizations such as the Rhode Island Afterschool Network and the  
17 National Afterschool Association work to strengthen the out-of-school time workforce, promote  
18 program quality, and advocate for policies that expand opportunities for children and families;  
19 and

1           WHEREAS, April 20–24, 2026, is recognized as Afterschool Professionals Appreciation  
2 Week, a time to honor the dedicated individuals who serve as educators, mentors, and role models  
3 in out-of-school time programs, whose commitment supports the well-being and success of youth  
4 and families; and

5           WHEREAS, These professionals are essential to the functioning of working families and  
6 the broader economy, providing reliable care and meaningful learning experiences outside the  
7 traditional school day; and

8           WHEREAS, Declaring April as "Out-of-School Time Month" provides an opportunity to  
9 raise awareness of the importance of these programs, celebrate their impact, and encourage  
10 continued collaboration among educators, policymakers, and community organizations; now,  
11 therefore be it

12           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
13 recognizes April 2026 as "Out-of-School Time Month" and celebrates the positive impact of out-  
14 of-school time programs on the youth of our State; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Michael Dunican, Statewide Director of the  
17 Rhode Island Afterschool Network and the National Afterschool Association.

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