

Bob Brady for Mayor

After School Education: Better Students, Safer Neighborhoods

Over the last decade, before and after school programs have emerged as a crucial and necessary component of an effective education system. And over the past decade due to a variety of social factors, children are spending more and more time unsupervised. The gap between work schedules and school schedules is increasing so much that some children experience 20 to 25 hours a week of unsupervised time. During that time, after school hours, more than 25% of all juvenile crime occurs. The children with large amounts of unsupervised time are also more likely to have poor grades and higher rates of truancy.

THE FACTS

- In 2005 more than 3,900 juveniles were arrested, approximately 1 in 12 of which were under the age of 13 in 2005.
- Roughly 5,000 students drop out of the Philadelphia School District every year.
- Philadelphia's juvenile crime rate which has risen 9% over the last four years.

Considering these grim statistics there is no questions that something must be done. Congressman Brady knows that after school programs are not only a vital method of improving school performance, but ensuring public safety.

For the City to stem the tide of violence and crime, the increasing prevalence of juvenile crime must be addressed. After school education programs hold the potential for not only improving academic success, but also dissuading youth from a life of crime. The 5,000 students who drop out of the Philadelphia School District every year do so with no diploma and no marketable skills. Therefore, the success of the Philadelphia School District is not only a matter of academic excellence, but also one of public safety.

THE BRADY SOLUTION

A simple restructuring and repurposing of a child's unsupervised time can mean impressive positive academic and social results. With the proper organization, leadership, and guidance Philadelphia can improve the availability and the quality of after school programs.

As Mayor, BOB BRADY will:

- **\$5,000,000 increase in after school funds within the Philadelphia Department of Recreation;**
- **Serve an additional 15,000 children;**

- **Offer after school education at all 150 City recreation center, currently 90 offer ;**
- **Partner with private organizations and businesses to sponsor City recreation centers.**

HOW IT WORKS

As Mayor, Bob Brady will align all of the key parties involved in the establishment and operation of before and after school education programs to ensure consistency and a concerted fund raising effort. Mayor Brady would personally pursue federal grant funds, and solicit the support and cooperation of government agencies that operate after school programs, like the Philadelphia School District and Philadelphia Housing Authority. New funding would be phased in over a three year period, allowing sufficient time for the Department of Recreation to expand programs.

The Brady administration would work to forge a partnership between the City and private organizations and business to ensure equal and adequate support of all City recreation centers. With the large majority of after school programs already operated by private organizations such as Foundations for a Brighter Future, ASAP, and Safe and Sound Mayor Brady would engage the corporate community as part of a wider campaign to expand after school programs. The City will also solicit the support of businesses willing to sponsor after school activities at recreation centers.

A coordinated approach to funding will also help maximize the amount of federal, state and local dollars dedicated to after school programs. Funding sources like 21st Century Learning Center grants available since the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 should be a top target for the City. The Act is represents an effort by the federal government to encourage local school districts and private organizations to adopt and implement before and after school education programs as part of their curriculum—an effort the Brady administration will take full advantage of on behalf Philadelphia school children.

In addition to federal funding, the City of Philadelphia will continue to partner with Safe and Sound who has provided after school programs to an additional 25,000 children. Mayor Brady will also work closely with The Department of Recreation and the Police Athletic League who operate successful after school programs serving 20,000 children.

After school programs serve a dual purpose of academic improvement and public safety. By improving the availability of after school programs, and ensuring a participation rate of more than double the state average we can reduce the number of dropout students, and reduce the rising rate of juvenile crime.