



Media Release

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National *Lights On Afterschool* celebrates the positive impact afterschool programs have on youth development in Tazewell County

On October 15, 2025, hundreds of Tazewell County students and their families enjoyed jeopardy, team-building activities, and more while celebrating and highlighting the importance of afterschool programs. Tazewell County Health Department (TCHD)'s *Lights on Afterschool* event was one of approximately 8,000 taking place across the nation in October, emphasizing the importance of keeping the lights on and the doors open after school.

"*Lights On Afterschool* celebrates the diverse range of activities offered to students who attend 21st Century Schools Extended Day programs," Shanita Wallace, TCHD Supervisor of Community Health Division said.

The event schedule included crafts, physical fitness, games, and most importantly fun for students.

"My favorite activity for this year's event was students exploring the importance of core values and highlighting their importance through art displays," Wallace said.

As the event concluded, participants were provided with an at-home *Lights On* kit that provided opportunities for families to engage in literacy and STEM activities.

Lights On Afterschool is organized by the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children have access to quality afterschool programs. *Lights On Afterschool* has been held annually since 2000. More information on the Afterschool Alliance and *Lights On Afterschool* is available at AfterschoolAlliance.org.

TCHD serves more than 900 children enrolled in the 21st Century Schools program, focusing on academics, life skills education, family involvement, service learning, positive adult mentors, and recreational/cultural activities. Each program is run as a partnership between the Tazewell County Health Department, the individual school and school district. More information on 21st Century Schools is available at TazewellHealth.org.

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