

## News

# State lawmakers focus on after school programs

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(Harrisburg) – A newly formed legislative panel wants to ensure that what students learn while in school doesn't get lost once the bell rings.

The bipartisan Legislative Afterschool Caucus is made up of 31 House and Senate members, whose goal is boosting participation in the STEM fields-Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Caucus co-chair, Senator John Yudichak, says it's about the jobs of the future.

"There's 75-thousand openings in STEM-related careers. We have to prepare children for the 21st Century jobs. They're going to be the entrepreneurs. They're the ones that will lead us to the future," he said.

Lawmakers recently visited a tech school in Jim Thorpe, Carbon County, to look at a program called SHINE, or Schools and Homes in Education.

Senator Yudichak says this is the type of program that could be expanded to schools across Pennsylvania.

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