For years, afterschool programs have kept kids safe, inspired them to learn, and offered parents peace of mind that their children are constructively engaged in the hours between the end of the school day and when parents return from work.

In Los Angeles, America After 3PM found that for every child in an afterschool program, 2 are waiting to get in, with 47,375 children alone and unsupervised after school.

The number of students left without afterschool in Los Angeles is high

There are now 361,873 children (70%) in Los Angeles who would be enrolled in an afterschool program if one were available to them, compared to 56% in California and 50% nationally.

Los Angeles children who are fortunate enough to take part in afterschool programs are receiving critical support

95% of Los Angeles parents are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program. Los Angeles children in afterschool programs are:

- Building life skills 69%
- Getting help with homework 65%
- Engaging in STEM or computer science learning opportunities 89%
- Taking part in physical activities 82%
- Receiving healthy snacks or meals 67%
- Interacting with peers and building social skills 84%
Additionally, Los Angeles parents report high levels of satisfaction with supports in their child’s afterschool program, including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A safe environment</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledgeable and caring staff</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moreover, Los Angeles parents report that afterschool programs are a lifeline for working families:

- 76% of parents with a child in an afterschool program agree that the program helps them keep their job or work more hours.
- 83% of parents overall agree that afterschool programs provide working parents peace of mind.

- 148,047 Number of children in afterschool programs
- 5 hours Average hours per week children spend in an afterschool program
- 3.6 days Average days per week children spend in an afterschool program

- $90 Average weekly cost of afterschool programs*
- 41% Percentage of children in afterschool who are from low-income households
- 78% Percentage of afterschool programs located in a public school building

*Among parents who report that they pay a fee for their child’s afterschool program
A significant percentage of parents in Los Angeles report challenges to enrolling their child in an afterschool program, for example, 3 in 5 parents said that the lack of a safe way for their child to get to and come home from programs was an important factor in their decision not to enroll their child in a program.

As high levels of parents reported barriers to participation, afterschool program participation in Los Angeles decreased from 2009 to 2020.

Cost and access top the list of roadblocks to afterschool program participation

% of parents reporting they did not enroll their child in an afterschool program because of the following:

- Lack of available programs: 47%
- Programs are too expensive: 50%
- No safe way for their child to get to and from programs: 59%

There is significant bipartisan support for greater investment in afterschool

To help ensure that all children in Los Angeles who want to participate in an afterschool program are able, greater investment in afterschool is needed. Support for public funding for afterschool programs in Los Angeles is high, with 90% of parents in favor of funding for programs that provide afterschool opportunities.

In the face of the ongoing pandemic, parents nationally continue to see afterschool programs as a resource to promote their child’s growth and development while also helping parents maintain or find employment. In an October 2020 national survey of parents, 77% agreed that Congress should provide additional funding for afterschool programs to operate during virtual school days.

Strong support for public funding across the political spectrum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Support for Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About the survey

America After 3PM is a national survey of parents or guardians of school-aged children, screening 31,055 households and having 14,393 households completing in-depth interviews via an online survey using a blend of national consumer panels. At least 200 households completed interviews in every state and Washington D.C., between January 27 and March 17, 2020. Where the minimum could not be met, supplemental telephone interviews were conducted. Data were collected by Edge Research on behalf of the Afterschool Alliance. The percentages and projected numbers in America After 3PM are based on survey responses from parents. In Los Angeles, 249 households and 919 children were screened for this study, with oversample specific responses collected between April 16 and May 3, 2020. Child-level statewide projections and total school enrollment numbers are based on U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018 5-Year Estimates. Total school enrollment for Los Angeles is 592,187.

For additional information about America After 3PM, visit: [http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/)

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