At a time of deep partisan divides, Afterschool Alliance surveys have found an area of consensus around support for afterschool and summer learning programs. Across the political spectrum, parents identifying as Democratic, Independent, and Republican strongly agree that afterschool and summer learning programs are keeping kids safe, inspiring learning, and providing peace of mind to working parents, with overwhelming majorities in favor of public funding for such programs. Surveys of parents of school-age children before and during the pandemic demonstrate the value parents place on afterschool and summer learning programs, regardless of political affiliation. Even with the high levels of support for afterschool, gaps remain, and there are 24.7 million children—more than the populations of Kansas, Ohio, and Virginia combined—who would be enrolled in a program if one were available to them.

**Afterschool for All**

A spring 2022 survey of nearly 1,500 parents found that approximately 8 in 10 who identify as Democratic (88 percent), Independent (80 percent), and Republican (82 percent) agree that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. These results are similar to parent surveys conducted both before and during the pandemic, demonstrating the consistently high level of support for the need for afterschool and summer programs.

**Parents who identify as Democratic, Independent, and Republican continue to voice agreement that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs through the pandemic.**
Consensus on Afterschool Benefits

From providing young people with the opportunity to build critical life skills to helping parents keep their jobs, America After 3PM found that parents of all political ideologies agree that afterschool programs are a source of support for children and their families.

Democratic, Independent, and Republican parents agree that afterschool programs:

- Help kids engage with their peers
- Provide opportunities for physical activity
- Provide opportunities for young people to build life skills
- Get kids more excited about learning and more interested in school
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble
- Provide working parents peace of mind
- Help working parents keep their jobs

Overwhelming majorities of Democrat, Independent, and Republican parents somewhat or completely agree that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Completely agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Don’t know | Completely disagree | Somewhat disagree | Neutral | Somewhat agree | Completely agree

Help kids engage with their peers:
- Democrat: 87%
- Independent: 87%
- Republican: 85%

Provide opportunities for physical activity:
- Democrat: 85%
- Independent: 85%
- Republican: 85%

Provide opportunities for young people to build life skills:
- Democrat: 81%
- Independent: 81%
- Republican: 81%

Get kids more excited about learning and more interested in school:
- Democrat: 78%
- Independent: 78%
- Republican: 78%

Keep kids safe and out of trouble:
- Democrat: 79%
- Independent: 79%
- Republican: 74%
Championing Public Funding

Regardless of political affiliation, parent support for public funding of afterschool and summer learning programs remains strong.

### EARLY 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Afterschool programs</th>
<th>Summer learning programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SPRING 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Afterschool programs</th>
<th>Summer learning programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Essential for Recovery

COVID-19 has had a serious impact on the health, economic stability, and overall well-being of children and families alike. However, through the pandemic, afterschool and summer learning programs have risen to the moment, helping young people stay connected to their peers and caring adults, remain engaged in learning, and realize their full potential. A survey of parents in spring 2022 found that nearly 3 in 4 agree that the experience of the coronavirus has made them appreciate school teachers and afterschool providers more than ever before (73 percent), including majorities of parents who identify as Democratic (83 percent), Independent (68 percent), and Republican (71 percent).

Survey results are based on four nationally representative surveys conducted by Edge Research of parents or guardians of a school-age child who lives in their household: a survey fielded Jan. 27-Mar. 17, 2020 of 31,055 households using an online survey and supplementary telephone interviews, an online survey fielded Aug. 4-18, 2020 of 1,071 parents, an online survey fielded Oct. 12-29, 2020 of 1,202 parents, and an online survey fielded May 12-June 28, 2022 of 1,489 parents.

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. Learn more at: [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)