America’s students face many obstacles that can potentially derail their journey to a healthy, rewarding and productive life. Thankfully, **afterschool programs across the country are helping students make the right decisions** by inspiring learning, providing safe and supportive environments, and giving students the essential supports they need to succeed in school and beyond.

### Afterschool Programs are:

**keeping kids safe and supported...**

- Juvenile crime and victimization peaks in the hours after school, yet 1 in 5 kids are left on their own during these hours.  
- Working parents who worry about their children after school cost businesses up to $300 billion per year.
- Three out of four parents agree that afterschool programs give them peace of mind about their children when they are at work.

**...charging up minds and bodies...**

- Students in high-quality afterschool programs have better attendance, behavior, grades and test scores compared to their non-participating peers.
- More than 1 in 3 U.S. children and adolescents are considered overweight or obese. Children are also not getting enough physical activity or eating enough healthy foods.
- 92% of adolescents do not meet their daily requirement for physical activity.
- 60% of children do not get enough fruit in their diet.
- 90% of children do not get enough vegetables.

**Afterschool programs keep kids active and consuming nutritious foods.** Studies show students in afterschool programs are more physically fit than students not in a program, and parents of students in afterschool report that their child’s programs are providing healthy drinks and snacks.
AFTERSCHOOL SUPPORTS
Students’ Success

Afterschool Programs are:
...igniting an excitement about learning...

Students’ engagement in school decreases as they go through school.\(^8\)
76% Of elementary schoolers engaged in school
61% Of middle schoolers engaged in school
44% Of high schoolers engaged in school

Research shows that kids in afterschool programs go to school more, see improvements in their behavior, and increase their likelihood of moving on to the next grade level and graduating.\(^9\)

...and helping to bring opportunity back into balance.

Over 30 years, the academic achievement gap between students from lower- and high-income families has grown by 40%.\(^10\)

Consistent participation in quality afterschool programs is linked to significant gains in student test scores and work habits. Afterschool programs not only have a positive effect on students at risk of failure, but help reduce the math achievement gap between students from lower- and high-income families.\(^11\)

YET for every 1 child in an afterschool program, there are 2 waiting to get in. We are working to expand afterschool for all.

Visit afterschoolalliance.org to learn more.

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs.