

# AFTERSCHOOL SUPPORTS Students' Success



Afterschool Alliance

May 2016

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.**<sup>1</sup>

**Afterschool programs provide safety and supervision**, while linking kids with mentors who discourage negative behaviors, such as aggression and drug and alcohol use. **For every dollar invested in afterschool programs, \$2.50 is saved in crime-related costs.**<sup>2</sup>

Working parents who worry about their children after school **cost businesses up to \$300 billion per year.**<sup>3</sup>



**Three out of four parents agree** that **afterschool programs give them peace of mind** about their children when they are at work.<sup>4</sup>



## ...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.**<sup>5</sup>

**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.<sup>6</sup>



**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.**<sup>7</sup>



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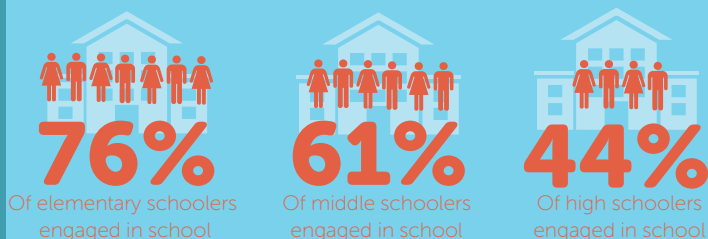


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**Afterschool Programs are:**  
...igniting an **excitement about learning**...

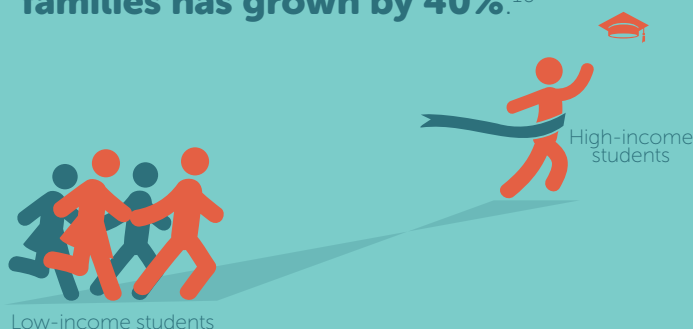
Students' **engagement in school decreases** as they go through school.<sup>8</sup>



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.**<sup>9</sup>

...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%.<sup>10</sup>



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.<sup>11</sup>

**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](http://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.