



This is Afterschool in California

In Northern California, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marín partnered with Cloverdale Unified School District, Geyserville Unified School District, Guerneville School District, Roseland Public Schools, and Santa Rosa City Schools, and invested nearly \$1.1 million in American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds to enhance programming at nine summer camps in the five communities. More than 2,260 1st-8th grade students took part in hands-on STEM learning opportunities, activities focused on building empathy and relationships, including brainstorming “ways to be kind,” and field trips during the summers of 2022 and 2023. At the end of summer 2023, more than 9 in 10 students surveyed (93%) reported that they had an overall positive experience, and an overwhelming majority said that they had high expectations from staff (88%) and felt safe at the program (77%). One elementary school camper said, “At the club I feel safe and like the club is my family. I feel like I can make all my dreams come true!”

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many California youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In California, for every child in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate if a program were available. And a national fall 2023 survey of afterschool program providers found that nearly 3 in 4 are concerned about their program’s long-term funding and future. Afterschool and summer programs across California are accelerating students’ growth, supporting students’ well-being, and helping working families. To keep their doors open, these programs need additional investments at the local, state, and federal levels.

IMPROVING SCHOOL-DAY ENGAGEMENT AND REDUCING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM







A 2023 U.S. Department of Education report on 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)—local before-school, afterschool, and summer learning programs that serve more than 1.3 million students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools—found that:

7 IN 10 students in the program demonstrated an **IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN LEARNING**

NEARLY HALF of students who were **CHRONICALLY ABSENT** the previous year **IMPROVED THEIR SCHOOL-DAY ATTENDANCE**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ACCELERATE STUDENTS’ ACADEMIC GROWTH AND SUPPORT THEIR WELL-BEING

California students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help **(78%)**
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities **(82%)**
-  Working on their reading and writing skills **(76%)**
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills **(84%)**
-  Taking part in physical activities **(85%)**
-  Building confidence **(84%)**



93% of California parents are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

California parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs (84%)



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe (84%)

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of California parents favor public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs.



Research has found that **EVERY \$1 INVESTED** in California afterschool programs leads to a **RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF UP TO \$12** by:

- ✓ Increasing kids' earning potential as adults
- ✓ Improving kids' performance at school
- ✓ Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

With strong public support, a national survey found that approximately 8 in 10 registered voters said that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity for their community (79%) and that they want their federal, state, and local leaders to provide more funding for programs (80%).

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) programs engage students in hands-on learning activities aimed at supporting their academic growth, provide a variety of enrichment activities to complement school-day learning, and offer educational and support services to the families of participating children. The 2023 Department of Education annual performance report of 21st CCLC found that among regular participants:



MORE THAN 1 IN 2 improved their GPA



7 IN 10 improved their engagement in learning



2 IN 5 saw a decrease in school suspensions

In California, 175,688 children in 701 communities take part in a 21st Century Community Learning Center. 21st CCLC grants are the only dedicated federal funding sources that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programming in California is so great that more than 3 out of every 5 applications were not funded based on the most recently available competition data.

AFTERSCHOOL WORKS

Studies have shown that students regularly participating in quality afterschool programs attend school more often, are more engaged in school, get better grades, and are more likely to be promoted to the next grade. For example, in a 2023 report by the U.S. Department of Education on 21st CCLC programs nationally, approximately half of California students in 4th-8th grade demonstrated growth on the state's reading/language arts (51%) and math (48%) assessments. Additionally, among students in grades 7-8 and 10-12 who had below a 3.0 GPA the previous year, 59% saw an improvement in their GPA. Students in programs also demonstrated improvements in their engagement in learning and behavior in school, with teachers reporting a majority of their students (70%) attending 21st CCLC programs improved their engagement in learning and 47% of students with an attendance rate below 90% the previous school year improved their school-day attendance. The attendance finding is similar to a 2021 evaluation of California's After School Education and Safety (ASES) and After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens (ASSETs) programs that found that on average, students attending the afterschool programs had higher rates of school-day attendance, up to 1.5% more school days than their non-participating peers. Researchers estimated improved student school day attendance could result in more than \$38 million in gains to schools.