



This is Afterschool in Delaware

In Delaware, American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds helped Colonial School District run their Colonial Amongst Men Inc Mentorship Program (AMI), supporting more than 100 boys in elementary and middle school. The goal of AMI is to accelerate participants' personal, academic, and social progress through wraparound services. Program offerings included mentorship opportunities; classes promoting character education, self-improvement, and overcoming adversity; and a Saturday Breakfast Amongst Men program for students and their fathers to participate in interactive activities and workshops once a month. The district found that youth participating in AMI's wraparound services had a 45% decrease in disciplinary referrals.

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many Delaware youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In Delaware, for every child in an afterschool program, 4 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 Delaware 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

Delaware students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (67%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (87%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (69%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (91%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (89%)
-  Building confidence (84%)



90% of Delaware parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Delaware parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs (**81%**)



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe (**85%**)

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

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



Research spanning several states shows that **EVERY \$1 INVESTED** in afterschool programs **SAVES AT LEAST \$3** 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 Delaware, 4,142 children in 23 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 Delaware is so great that 1 out of every 5 applications was not funded during the most recent competition.

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, a 2022 report by Via Evaluation found that teachers, students, and parents agreed that Delaware's 21st CCLC programs had a positive academic and behavioral impact on program participants. An overwhelming majority of students in the 21st CCLC programs said that they did better in school because of the program (89%) and that staff in the program cared about them (98%) and helped them (97%). Additionally, students said that they felt safe in the program (96%), they liked attending the program (94%), and they want to return to the program the following year (90%). Among high school participants, most said that their 21st CCLC program helped them to learn skills that they can use later in life (94%), feel more connected to their school (83%), and prepare for college (92%) and career (85%). Teachers surveyed reported that their students attending 21st CCLC programs have improved their academic skills (68%) and interpersonal interactions (77%), while parents agreed that since attending the program, their child has become more interested in school (89%) and improved in school (76%). Nearly all parents surveyed (99%) agreed that the 21st CCLC program was good for their child.

