

This is Afterschool in Delaware

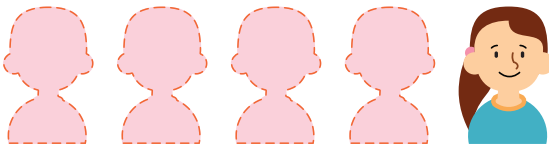


Delaware parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Delaware, nearly 70,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

Demand for Afterschool Programs in Delaware is Enormous



Approximately 4 in 5 Delaware children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support Delaware Children’s Learning and Development

Delaware parents give programs high marks for quality and for supporting their child with:



Afterschool Works in Delaware

A 2022 report by Via Evaluation of Delaware’s 21st CCLC programs found that programs helped:

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** Most students reported doing better in school due to their program (89%). Similarly, teachers and parents agreed that participants improved in school (68% and 76%, respectively).
- ▲ **Improve connectedness:** Almost all students reported that staff cared about them (98%), they felt safe in the program (96%), and they liked attending the program (94%). Parents noted greater interest in school (89%) and teachers observed improved interpersonal interactions (77%).
- ▲ **Support college and career readiness:** High school participants reported that programs helped them learn skills they can use later in life (94%) and prepare for college (92%) and career (85%).

Delaware Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

89%

Agree that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs.



89%

Are in favor of public funding for afterschool programs. Support for public funding is also high across political affiliations.



Afterschool Programs Help Working Families and Strengthen the Economy

Delaware parents report that their child's afterschool program:

83%

Helps them keep their job



90%

Leads to less stress



87%

Boosts productivity



Additionally, 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



If there were not an afterschool program available, what, if any impact would it have on your family?

"My child would have less opportunities to be around children the same age and likely spend more time on electronics."

— DELAWARE MOM

21st Century Community Learning Centers

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21st CCLC) is the only federal funding dedicated to afterschool and summer programs, enabling states to award funds to local programs that meet community needs. 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.

IN DELAWARE:

4,787
children are served by
a 21st CCLC program

26
communities
served

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Delaware After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/delaware/demand>.
2. Spearing, D. (2022). *21st CCLC subgrantee evaluation Delaware Department of Education*. Via Evaluation.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Delaware Department of Education. (2026). [Number of children and communities served by DE 21st CCLCs, 2025] [Unpublished raw data].

About the Afterschool Alliance

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

