



This is Afterschool in Georgia

In Georgia, the Deep Center was awarded approximately \$214,000 by the Georgia State Afterschool Network and the Georgia Department of Education through the Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Grant, made possible by the American Rescue Plan Act. With the funds, the Deep Center added staff capacity and expanded partnerships in five of their programs, providing more than 500 middle and high schoolers with activities including creative writing, poetry, performing arts, visual arts, photography, and storytelling. All youth in the program improved their writing skills and 81% improved in areas of competency including awareness, leadership, and hope. An overwhelming majority of Deep Center students surveyed (97%) reported that they were satisfied with their program.

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many Georgia youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In Georgia, for every child in an afterschool program, 2 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 Georgia 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

Georgia students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (77%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (71%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (74%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (91%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (86%)
-  Building confidence (78%)



94% of Georgia parents are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Georgia parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs **(80%)**



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe **(79%)**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

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



Research has found that **EVERY \$1 INVESTED** in Georgia afterschool programs leads to a **RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF \$2.64** by:

- ✓ Reducing grade retention
- ✓ Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency
- ✓ Reducing drug and alcohol addiction

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 Georgia, 27,049 children in 232 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 Georgia is so great that 1 out of every 2 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 from the Georgia Department of Education found that students participating in 21st CCLC programs saw gains in their engagement in learning and academic performance. Teachers reported that 76% of students in grades one through five who attended 21st CCLC programs improved their engagement in learning. Among students in 1st through 12th grade who had a school-day attendance rate at or below 90% the previous school year, approximately 3 in 4 (76%) improved their attendance during the current school year. Regarding academic performance, more than half of 21st CCLC students in grades 7 and 8 and 10-12 who previously had a GPA of less than 3.0 improved their GPA (53%), and 1 in 5 students in grades 4 through 8 who were in need of improvement improved on their math (21%) and reading and language arts state assessments (20%).

