



Credit: Photo by Allison Shelley for EDUimages

This is Afterschool in Hawai‘i

In Hawai‘i, \$13 million in American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds were used to support summer school learning hubs for more than 20,000 students. The hubs enabled schools or complex areas to design tailored programs for their students, including enrichment opportunities, transition programs, credit recovery, camps, summer meals, counseling, and early screening services. For example, at He‘eia Elementary School, they used funds to serve 75 rising 1st-6th graders with academic classes focused on reading, math, social studies, and science and provided enrichment opportunities in the afternoon including Hawai‘ian Art, PE, and STEM activities. Program leaders built the core content around the native Hawai‘ian ahupua‘a system from the valley to the sea (streams, taro patches, fish pond, and Hawai‘ian gardens) as the context for learning, incorporating project-based learning. Students also participated in cultural education field trips where students removed invasive species, repaired gates, and caught fish. As a result of ARP ESSER funds, 90% of the students made gains on iReady.

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many Hawai‘i youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In Hawai‘i, 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 Hawai‘i 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

Hawai‘i students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (77%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (61%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (73%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (97%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (86%)
-  Building confidence (78%)



99% of Hawai‘i parents are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i, 11,223 children in 52 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 Hawai'i is so great that nearly 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, evaluations of Hawai'i's 21st CCLC programs found that students participating in 21st CCLC programs made both academic and behavioral gains. In a 2023 evaluation, centers reported that their students improved on the state's English language arts (ranging from 23% to 100% of students) and math assessments (ranging from 14% to 100%). One example is, Castle Complex, which served more than 650 students and combined academic support with enrichment and included activities such as STEM, cooking, fitness, and college and career awareness programming, reported that 60% of its students made improvements on the English language arts assessments, while 50% improved on the math assessments. A 2021 evaluation of Hawai'i's 21st CCLC programs found that students who attended 21st CCLC programs regularly received fewer behavioral referrals and were less likely to be chronically absent than their classmates who attended fewer than 30 days.

