



This is Afterschool in Iowa

In Iowa, the Cedar Rapids Community School District allocated a portion of their Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II and III funds to the Kids on Course University (KCU) Summer Program. KCU used these funds to support students from all 21 Cedar Rapids elementary schools and provided reading, math, and writing instruction to prevent learning loss over the summer. Students also went on field trips, took enrichment classes, and connected with local mentors through the program, as well as received breakfast, lunch, and transportation for all seven weeks of programming. Among program participants, 89% of students showed improvement or maintained their proficiency in math, and 85% of students improved or maintained proficiency in literacy.

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

Iowa students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help **(56%)**
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities **(66%)**
-  Working on their reading and writing skills **(66%)**
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills **(89%)**
-  Taking part in physical activities **(85%)**
-  Building confidence **(78%)**



96% of Iowa parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Iowa parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs **(79%)**



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe **(87%)**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of Iowa 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 Iowa, 9,861 children in 86 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 Iowa 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 evaluation of Iowa's 21st CCLC programs by the Iowa Department of Education found that students participating in programs made both academic and behavioral improvements. Among 4th through 8th grade students attending a 21st CCLC program and in need of improvement, nearly 3 in 5 improved in math and English (59%, all), and half of students in grades 7 and 8 and 10-12 who previously had a GPA below 3.0 improved their average. Moreover, teachers reported that 87% of students in 1st through 5th grade improved their engagement in learning. And among 1st through 12th graders who had an attendance rate at or below 90% the previous year, 7 in 10 improved their school-day attendance. The evaluation also found that 82% of students saw a decrease in in-school suspensions compared to the previous year. A teacher quoted in the evaluation stated, "I have watched a number of my neediest students gain confidence and skills through the afterschool program. The extra instruction offered there is something I cannot accomplish in the day-school classroom."

