



This is Afterschool in Idaho

The Idaho Out of School Network (ION) received approximately \$1.4 million in COVID relief funding from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to launch the Idaho Community Programs for Youth (ICPFY) Award Round III. The funds increased access, quality, and equity in summer programs by supporting community-based organizations operating comprehensive out-of-school time programming from June to August 2022. Programs were awarded up to \$45,000 to provide evidence-based summer programming focused on academic, social, and emotional learning for students most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. An evaluation of ICPFY grantees found that among families with children participating in programs, 87% said their program helped their child succeed academically, 93% said that the program gave their child new experiences, and 97% agreed that their child enjoyed attending the program.

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

Idaho students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (72%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (87%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (69%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (92%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (85%)
-  Building confidence (85%)



99% of Idaho parents are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Idaho parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs (77%)



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

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of Idaho 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 Idaho, 8,836 children in 97 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 Idaho is so great that nearly 2 out of every 5 applications were 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, in a 2023 report by the U.S. Department of Education on 21st CCLC programs nationally, approximately half (51%) of Idaho students who attended programs during the school year and had a GPA below 3.0 the previous year saw an improvement. And 54% of students demonstrated growth on the state's reading/language arts assessment, while 44% demonstrated growth on the math assessment. Additionally, Idaho students attending 21st CCLC programs saw improvements in their school-day attendance, where among students with an attendance rate below 90% the previous school year, 68% improved their school attendance rate. A 2021 evaluation of Idaho's 21st CCLC programs by Boise State University found that, according to teacher surveys, students who regularly attended programming had improvements in homework completion and class participation (81%) and behavior (80%). A vast majority of participants also shared that they felt safe at their 21st CCLC program (80%) and liked how they learned in their program (76%).

