



This is Afterschool in Kentucky

In Kentucky, Covington Partners, a community-based organization offering out-of-school time programming, mentorship opportunities, and family engagement for young people and their families, received \$3.3 million in pandemic relief funding to expand their summer program offerings during the 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 summers; cover the budget shortfall at two afterschool program sites that lost a funding stream in 2022; and support their mentoring program. For their summer programming in particular, these funds made it possible to increase summer programming for elementary schoolers from five weeks to six weeks, double the amount of middle school programming offered from two weeks to four weeks, increase hourly pay for staff, hire two additional certified math and reading teachers at each elementary school site where programming occurred, and bring on school counselors or psychologists for students who were in need of additional support. Participation in the summer program grew by 50% at each site, from 100 students to 150 students. In addition, summer program participants showed growth in reading, with the percent of participants either improving or maintaining their reading skills ranging from 73% to 95% across the five school sites.

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

Kentucky students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (76%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (53%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (63%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (90%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (80%)
-  Building confidence (75%)



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

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Kentucky parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs **(81%)**



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe **(85%)**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of Kentucky 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 Kentucky, 32,881 children in 189 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 Kentucky is so great that nearly 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 2023 evaluation of Kentucky's 21st CCLC programs by the Center for Evaluation, Policy, and Research at Indiana University found that students in the program saw positive gains in their engagement in school and academic achievement. Among students with an attendance rate below 90% during the 2020-21 school year, more than 8 in 10 elementary (87%) and middle and high schoolers (81%) improved their school-day attendance during the 2021-22 school year. Teachers also reported that a strong majority of elementary and middle and high schoolers improved in their participation in learning activities (80% and 78%, respectively), attention during learning activities (77% and 75%, respectively), and motivation to learn (77% and 73%, respectively). Additionally, among middle and high schoolers whose GPA was below 3.0, 73% saw improvements during the 2021-22 school year.

