

This is Afterschool in Kentucky



Kentucky parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Kentucky, more than 289,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

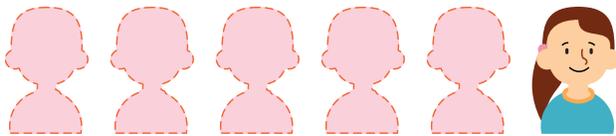
Demand for Afterschool Programs in Kentucky is Enormous

Parents of **346,276** children want afterschool programs

✓ **56,940** children are in afterschool programs

✗ **289,335** children are **not** in programs, but would be if a program were available

Approximately 5 in 6 Kentucky children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support Kentucky Children's Learning and Development

Kentucky parents give programs high marks for quality and for supporting their child with:

100% A safe environment

90% Excitement about learning

92% Teamwork + critical thinking skills

95% Time with peers + building social skills

4.46 Quality Rating

92% Excellent or Very Good

Afterschool Works in Kentucky

A 2024 evaluation of Kentucky's 21st CCLC programs by the Center for Evaluation, Policy, and Research at Indiana University found that programs helped:

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** 70% of older students who had a GPA below 3.0 the previous year improved their GPA.
- ▲ **Reduce chronic absenteeism:** Among students who were chronically absent the previous school year, 72% of elementary school participants and 60% of older participants improved their school-day attendance.
- ▲ **Improve engagement and behavior:** According to teachers, most elementary and middle/high school students who needed to improve showed progress in their class participation (80% and 75%), attentiveness (76% and 72%), and motivation to learn (76% and 70%). Older students significantly reduced their suspension rates (64%).

Kentucky Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

87%

Agree that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs.



87%

Are in favor of public funding for afterschool programs. Support for public funding is also high across political affiliations.



Afterschool Programs Help Working Families and Strengthen the Economy

Kentucky parents report that their child's afterschool program:

83%

Helps them keep their job



92%

Leads to less stress



90%

Boosts productivity



Additionally, 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



If there were not an afterschool program available, what, if any impact would it have on your family?

"It would have a negative impact as my child would miss out on socializing with peers in a free setting, and my work hours would be diminished."

— KENTUCKY MOM

21st Century Community Learning Centers

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21st CCLC) is the only federal funding dedicated to afterschool and summer programs, enabling states to award funds to local programs that meet community needs. 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.

IN KENTUCKY:

27,505
children are served by
a 21st CCLC program

175
communities
served

Demand for programming in Kentucky is so great that more than **1 out of every 5** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Kentucky After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/kentucky/demand>.
2. Center for Evaluation, Policy, and Research. (2024). Kentucky 21st Century Community Learning Centers Initiative evaluation of the 2022-2023 statewide results. Indiana University.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Kentucky Department of Education. (2026). [Number of children and communities served by KY 21st CCLCs, 2024-2025] [Unpublished raw data].

About the Afterschool Alliance

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. Learn more at: www.afterschoolalliance.org

