



This is Afterschool in Maryland

In Maryland, Wide Angle Youth Media—whose programs provide youth with direct access to educational and career opportunities, civic engagement, artistic experiences, and resources to overcome daily barriers such as food insecurity, transportation and safety, and limited access to technology—received a three-year \$450,000 grant award from American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery funds. As of December 2023, ARP funding has supported high-quality media arts education in the form of middle school afterschool programming, summer workforce and internship programs for high school students, and full-time apprenticeships programming for youth ages 18-24. The visibility of students' work is also a priority for the program, with media created by students shared with more than 2.2 million people, in person and online. Across all programs, 320 young people were served, and students had an average growth of 26% in skill areas including team building, creativity, listening, technical skills, and professionalism.

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many Maryland youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In Maryland, for every child in an afterschool program, 3 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 Maryland 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

Maryland students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (70%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (74%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (78%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (87%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (88%)
-  Building confidence (84%)



93% of Maryland parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Maryland 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 **(82%)**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of Maryland parents favor public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs.



Research has found that **EVERY \$1 INVESTED** in Maryland afterschool programs leads to a **RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF JUST OVER \$3** by:

- ✓ Reducing student drop out rates
- ✓ Increasing kids' earning potential as adults
- ✓ 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 Maryland, 8,841 children in 100 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 Maryland 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, in a 2023 report by the U.S. Department of Education on 21st CCLC programs nationally, Maryland students in need of improvement saw both academic and behavioral improvements. More than two-thirds of students (67%) participating in Maryland's 21st CCLC programs during the school year improved their GPA (among those who had a GPA below 3.0 the previous year) and a majority of students (57%) with an attendance rate below 90% the previous school year improved their school-day attendance. Students in programs also demonstrated improvements in their engagement in learning and behavior in school, with teachers reporting that 61% of their students attending 21st CCLC programs improved their engagement in learning and 90% of students decreased their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.

