



This is Afterschool in Michigan

In Grand Rapids, Michigan, Northview Public Schools' BASE (Belonging and After School Engagement) afterschool program was able to expand from serving 7th-12th graders to reaching more than 850 students in grades K-12 with the support of \$279,000 in American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds. The afterschool programs are free for all district students and promote belonging and student-staff engagement, offering a variety of workshops, including cooking and baking, carpentry, mountain biking, rock band, STEM activities, and gardening. At the end of the initial spring 2022 programs, Northview saw a 51% increase in student attendance tied to engagement in BASE.

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

Michigan students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (82%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (78%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (66%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (97%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (82%)
-  Building confidence (81%)



98% of Michigan parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Michigan 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 **(84%)**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of Michigan 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 Michigan, 17,677 children in 234 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 Michigan is so great that more than 1 out of every 4 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 2024 evaluation of Michigan's 21st CCLC programs by Michigan State University found that students in the program saw improvements in their academic performance and behavior in school. Approximately 1 in 3 students in need of improvement improved their GPA from the previous year (33%) and made gains on their state standardized test scores in English language arts (34%) and math (33%). Based on teacher reports, among students in need of improvement, students improved their classroom behavior (66%), social-emotional development (67%), and homework completion (58%).

Additionally, an overwhelming majority of students agreed that their program helped them learn school subjects in fun ways (82%), and activities offered helped them to do better in school (77%). Program participants, in particular high school participants, agreed that they learned new skills at the program and were encouraged to be the best they can be. Eighty-seven percent of students agreed that they learned new skills and 88% agreed that the program encourages them to be the best they can be; among high school participants, this increases to 93% and 95%, respectively.

