



This is Afterschool in Missouri

In Missouri, Tiger Academy was able to keep its doors open and continue to provide afterschool and summer programming to 160 students in K-12 thanks to \$395,000 in American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds after losing its 21st Century Community Learning Center funding. Running Monday through Friday, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. during the school year, and 10.5 hours a day during the summer, students in Tiger Academy received homework help, a meal, and academic enrichment activities focused on core subjects including STEAM. For example, their “Totally Gross” curriculum taught students about the human digestive system and included a field trip to a sewage plant. Tiger Academy also partnered with local organizations, including the College of the Ozarks, which provided student teachers for the program; the City of Hollister; and its local YMCA, which led gymnastics, Zumba, and stretching activities. Program staff described the positive change they saw in their students, with one staff member sharing the excitement of a 3rd grade student who passed his standardized test using strategies learned during the school day and reinforced at Tiger Academy, after the student had struggled with behavioral challenges and an inability to focus and finish tests.

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

Missouri students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (71%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (65%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (67%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (90%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (85%)
-  Building confidence (77%)



96% of Missouri parents are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Missouri 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 Missouri 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 Missouri, 17,121 children in 85 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 Missouri 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, in a 2023 report by the U.S. Department of Education on 21st CCLC programs nationally, Missouri students in need of improvement saw academic and behavioral improvements. More than half of Missouri's 21st CCLC participants who had a GPA below 3.0 the previous year improved their average (54%). And nearly 2 in 5 demonstrated growth on the state's reading/language arts (39%) and math assessments (37%). Additionally, teachers reported that 74% of their students attending 21st CCLC programs improved their engagement in learning, 63% of students with an attendance rate below 90% the previous school year improved their school-day attendance, and 31% of students decreased their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year. A 2024 evaluation by the Institute of Public Policy at the University of Missouri of the state's 21st CCLC programs found that students and their family members reported high levels of satisfaction with their program. On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is "almost never true" and 5 is "almost always true," students rated highly that they enjoyed attending their program (4.28), felt safe in the program (4.17), and felt like they mattered at the program (4.14). Parents rated highly that the program helped their child to be more successful in school (4.67), and that the program is helping their child prepare for the future (4.53).

