

# This is Afterschool in Missouri



Missouri 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 Missouri, more than 382,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

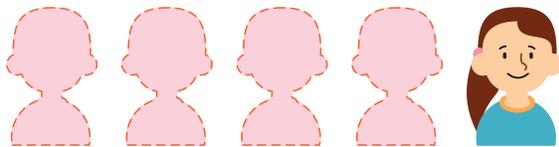
## Demand for Afterschool Programs in Missouri is Enormous

Parents of **474,869** children want afterschool programs

✓ **92,251** children are in afterschool programs

✗ **382,618** children are **not** in programs, but would be if a program were available

Approximately 4 in 5 Missouri children are missing out.



## Afterschool Programs Support Missouri Children's Learning and Development

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



## Afterschool Works in Missouri

In a 2024 U.S. Department of Education report on 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs nationally, Missouri students attending afterschool programs saw both academic and behavioral improvements. Programs helped:

- Boost academic performance:** About half of 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade participants demonstrated growth on the state's reading/language arts (50%) and math assessments (47%). Additionally, 70% of 7<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA below 3.0 the previous year improved their GPA.
- Reduce chronic absenteeism:** Nearly two-thirds (65%) of chronically absent students improved their school-day attendance.
- Improve engagement and behavior:** 69% of 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade participants improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning, and 61% of all students decreased their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.

# Missouri Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

88%

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



89%

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

Missouri parents report that their child's afterschool program:

67%

Helps them keep their job



95%

Leads to less stress



87%

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 probably cause complete disarray...I couldn't finish my work, and my child would be home playing video games or watching TV."

— MISSOURI DAD

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

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

**20,347**  
children are served by  
a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program

**140**  
communities  
served

Demand for programming in Missouri is so great that more than **1 out of every 2** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

### Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Missouri After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/missouri/demand>.
2. U.S. Department of Education. (2024). *21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) analytic support for evaluation and program monitoring: An overview of the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC performance data: 2022-2023 (19<sup>th</sup> report)*. Washington, DC.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by MO 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)



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