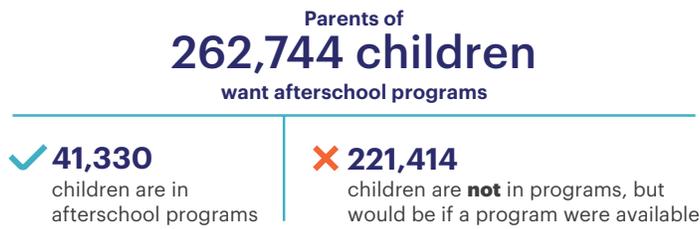


This is Afterschool in Mississippi

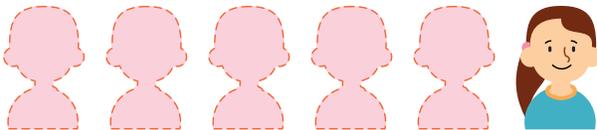


Mississippi parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Mississippi, more than 221,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

Demand for Afterschool Programs in Mississippi is Enormous



Approximately 5 in 6 Mississippi children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support Mississippi Children’s Learning and Development

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



Afterschool Works in Mississippi

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

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** A majority of 4th through 8th grade participants demonstrated growth on the state’s reading/language arts (55%) and math assessments (61%).
- ▲ **Reduce chronic absenteeism:** More than half (52%) of chronically absent students improved their school-day attendance.
- ▲ **Improve engagement and behavior:** 78% of 1st through 5th grade participants improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning, and 72% of students in grades 1 through 12 decreased their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.

Mississippi Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

83% 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

Mississippi parents report that their child’s afterschool program:

74% Helps them keep their job 

91% Leads to less stress 

79% 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?

“I’d hate it. [My son] doesn’t have many friends at home, and I feel like afterschool gives him more time for him to build relationships with other kids his age.”

— MISSISSIPPI DAD

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 MISSISSIPPI:

12,239
children are served by
a 21st CCLC program

130
communities
served

Demand for programming in Mississippi is so great that **2 out of every 3** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Mississippi After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/mississippi/demand>.
2. U.S. Department of Education. (2024). *21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) analytic support for evaluation and program monitoring: An overview of the 21st CCLC performance data: 2022-2023 (19th 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. Mississippi Department of Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by MS 21st CCLCs, 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

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