



This is Afterschool in New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Department of Education awarded nearly \$3 million in pandemic relief funds to expand their ReKINDling Curiosity program, which, since 2021, has provided scholarships for students with low incomes and students with disabilities to have the opportunity to attend a licensed New Hampshire summer camp. The goal of the ReKINDling Curiosity program is for as many New Hampshire students as possible to participate in a summer camp and return to the school year with more curiosity, excitement, and energy. The program has grown each year, with more than 5,000 students participating throughout the state in STEM activities like robotics and animation, woodworking, martial arts classes, filmmaking, and more. In addition to scholarships, through a partnership between the New Hampshire Department of Education and the New Hampshire Community Behavioral Health Association, pandemic relief funds allowed all camp counselors to receive mental health training and help them best meet their students' health and behavioral needs.

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many New Hampshire youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In New Hampshire, for every child in an afterschool program, 2 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 New Hampshire 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

New Hampshire students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (59%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (54%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (51%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (98%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (92%)
-  Building confidence (85%)



94% of New Hampshire parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

New Hampshire parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs (**89%**)



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe (**90%**)

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire, 6,180 children in 59 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.

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 2023 evaluation of New Hampshire's 21st CCLC programs found that students in the program were more engaged in learning, improved their academic performance, and felt safe and supported. Based on teachers surveyed, more than 8 in 10 students (85%) in grades 1 through 5 attending programs were engaged in their learning and 3 in 4 students (75%) who had an attendance rate lower than 90% the previous year improved their school-day attendance rate. Regarding academic performance, 94% of principals agreed that the 21st CCLC programs reinforced school-day curriculum and a majority of 7th-8th grade and 10th-12th grade students improved their GPA (59% and 62%, respectively). Principals surveyed saw the benefits programs provided in regard to building students' social skills, with 74% feeling that the program was extremely effective in supporting students socially. Students similarly reported the supportive environment programs provided for them, saying that they felt safe in the program (98%), that they belonged in the program (96%), and they had an adult in the program whom they could talk to (95%). Students reported that they got to try new things in their program (96%) and had opportunities to be a leader on activities (70%). Nearly all students surveyed (99%) reported that they liked their 21st CCLC program some or most of the time.

