



Credit: Photo by Allison Shelley for EDUimages

This is Afterschool in New York

In New York, the Renaissance Youth Center—which provides free programming to their community—was awarded nearly \$37,000 in American Rescue Plan funds for their 2021 Summer Rising program from the Department of Youth and Community Development Comprehensive Afterschool System of NYC (COMPASS). The Summer Rising program was a camp that ran for seven weeks, five days a week, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., serving 150 students in kindergarten through 5th grade, 93% of whom identified as either Black or Latino. In the morning, students focused on boosting their reading and math literacies. After lunch, they transitioned into fun, engaging enrichment activities, which included visual arts, performing arts, STEM activities, and more. Students wrote and performed in a play on what they experienced during the school year. In their STEM activities, they learned about hydroponics. Program staff also led field trips to the Bronx Zoo and partnered with NYPD to install a temporary rock climbing wall. As a result of their efforts, students saw a 80% increase in their phonic learning and literacy, a 90% increase in their performing arts comprehension, and 90% re-enrolled the following year. Students who were unable or unwilling to talk at the beginning of the program ended the program performing to an audience of approximately 200 people.

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many New York youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In New York, 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 New York 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 York students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (86%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (84%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (78%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (86%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (83%)
-  Building confidence (84%)



94% of New York parents are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

New York parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs **(80%)**



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe **(82%)**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of New York 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 York, 60,819 children in 326 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 New York is so great that more than 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, a 2023 report by the U.S. Department of Education on 21st CCLC programs nationally included findings that showed that New York students in the program became more engaged in learning and made both academic and behavioral gains. Based on teachers surveyed, 82% of New York 21st CCLC participants in grades 1 through 5 improved their engagement in learning and 68% of 1st through 12th grade students with an attendance rate below 90% the previous school year improved their school-day attendance. A majority of New York 21st CCLC participants in grades 4 through 8 demonstrated growth on the state's reading/language arts (53%) and math assessments (54%), and 28% of students in grades 7 through 8 and 10-12 who had a GPA below 3.0 the previous year improved their GPA. Students in programs also demonstrated improvements in their behavior in school, with 64% of students decreasing their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year. These findings reinforce a 2020 study conducted by Measurement Incorporated that noted that pre-pandemic, successes of the program included student and parent engagement in the program and improved graduation rates, English language arts and math performance, and homework completion.