



PHOTO CREDIT: Photo by Allison Shelley/The Verbatim Agency for EDUImages

This is Afterschool

The investment in afterschool and summer programs through American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds led to new learning opportunities for 5 million children across the country. But, as ARP and other pandemic relief funding expires, many young people will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken.

For every child in an afterschool program, four more would participate if a program were available. And a 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 the country 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.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ACCELERATE STUDENTS' ACADEMIC GROWTH AND SUPPORT THEIR WELL-BEING

From providing opportunities for reading and writing to helping students build their social skills and confidence, afterschool programs are providing a set of supports that foster young people's academic, social, and emotional development.

Students in afterschool programs are:

Interacting with their peers and building social skills

91%

Working on their reading and writing skills

80%

Taking part in physical activities

87%

Getting homework help

79%

Building confidence

86%

Engaging in STEM learning opportunities

67%



9 IN 10 parents rate the quality of their child's afterschool program as excellent or very good

“This special environment we are all able to come to every day after school has helped me become a kinder, smarter, more empathetic, and more self-expressive person.”

—ISSA, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATTENDING A 21ST CCLC PROGRAM

ARP FUNDS LEAD TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES

- In **SAVANNAH, GEORGIA**, with ARP funds, the Deep Center was able to add staff capacity and expand partnerships in five of their programs, providing more than 500 middle and high school students with activities including creative writing, poetry, performing arts, visual arts, photography, and storytelling. All students in the program improved their writing skills and 81% improved in areas of competency, such as leadership.
- In **GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**, Northview Public Schools' BASE (Belonging and After School Engagement) afterschool program was able to expand from serving only 7th-12th graders to reaching students in grades K-12. More than 850 students were able to take part in activities that included cooking and baking, carpentry, mountain biking, band, STEM, and gardening. At the end of the spring 2022 program, Northview saw a 51% increase in students' school-day attendance tied to engagement in BASE.
- In **EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY**, the school district ran full-day summer programs for four weeks in 2021, providing academic remediation, enrichment, and field trips. After the positive outcomes of utilizing summer hours, the district decided to use ARP funds to expand afterschool programs and went from serving 150 students at one school site to over 1,100 students grade K-5 at seven school sites. Nearly 30% of students who attended 30 days or more of the afterschool program saw academic gains in literacy and math and 90% saw a reduction of discipline referrals. One district leader stated, "afterschool programming has become a part of the fiber of the district."

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs **(83%)**



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe **(85%)**



Providing support to parents who are trying to find jobs **(77%)**

AFTERSCHOOL WORKS

A 2020 study in *Child Development* found that participation in children's organized afterschool activities was directly associated with fewer problem behaviors later in life. Specifically, the study found that those who consistently participated in afterschool activities in elementary school reported less impulsivity and less police contact at age 26. A similar study published in the journal *Development and Psychopathology* found that participation in organized activities in elementary school contribute to better academic grades and a more rigorous course load taken in high school, leading to greater adult educational and occupational attainment.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of parents favor public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs.

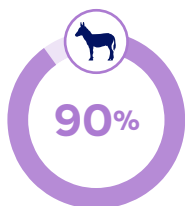


Research spanning several states shows that **EVERY \$1 INVESTED** in afterschool programs **SAVES AT LEAST \$3** by:

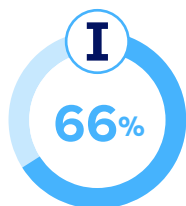
- ✓ Increasing kids' earning potential as adults
- ✓ Improving kids' performance at school
- ✓ Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

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%).

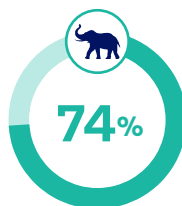
Support for more funding is high across political affiliations:



Democrats



Independents



Republicans

INCREASING SCHOOL-DAY ENGAGEMENT, REDUCING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM, AND IMPROVING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

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 students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools—found that:

7 IN 10

improved their engagement in learning

NEARLY 1 IN 2

improved their attendance (among students who were chronically absent the previous year*)

MORE THAN 4 IN 10

demonstrated growth on their state's math or reading assessments

MORE THAN 1 IN 2

improved their GPA

2 IN 5

saw a decrease in school suspensions

Nationally, nearly 1.4 million children in close to 10,500 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. However, **only 1 in 3 funding requests are awarded** due to intense competition and lack of adequate federal funding.

*Students who had a school-day attendance rate at or below 90% the previous school year.