



This is Afterschool in Oklahoma

In Oklahoma, Tulsa Public Schools dedicated up to \$9 million of its Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding toward its 2022 Ready. Set. Summer! program, a voluntary four-week summer program for K-12 students. The district included a wide range of activities, including gardening, robotics, and field trips, in addition to academic enrichment activities, offering programming to 10,000 students. The district found that students participating in Ready. Set. Summer! in 2021 showed a 3% and 1% increase in grade-level reading and math proficiency, respectively, on NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) assessments from spring to the fall of 2021.

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many Oklahoma youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In Oklahoma, 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 Oklahoma 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

Oklahoma students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (76%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (77%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (65%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (96%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (81%)
-  Building confidence (74%)



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

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Oklahoma parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs **(78%)**



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe **(78%)**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

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



Research has found that **EVERY \$1 INVESTED** in Oklahoma afterschool programs leads to a **RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF APPROXIMATELY \$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 Oklahoma, 16,356 children in 103 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 Oklahoma is so great that more than 2 out of every 3 applications were 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 evaluation of Oklahoma's 21st CCLC programs by the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality found that participation in the program supported academic and behavioral improvement. Approximately 9 in 10 students improved their state assessment scores in math (92%) and English language arts (87%), and most students surveyed agreed that the program helped them to get their work done on time (90%), try new things (89%), and provided activities that make them think (84%).

Additionally, students attending more regularly generally saw greater academic gains. For example, 61% of students attending the program fewer than 15 hours improved their GPA, compared to 68% of students attending 180-269 hours. Similarly, 69% of students who attended the program fewer than 15 hours and who had an attendance rate at or below 90% the previous school year improved their school-day attendance, compared to 83% of students who attended the program 180-269 hours. More than 9 in 10 parents reported that their child was excited to attend the program (97%) and that the program helped to balance working and parenting (97%).

