



This is Afterschool in Oregon

In Oregon, Frontier Afterschool received approximately \$166,000 in American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds through the Culturally Specific and Culturally Responsive STEM Learning Opportunities grant to establish and run three community-based makerspace sites within the Nyssa, Vale, and Ontario school districts. Since February 2023, Frontier Afterschool has provided more than 700 hours of culturally relevant STEM afterschool programming. Offered two days per week, two hours per day, sites are within walking distance from schools in the district. In addition to receiving a snack, students learn how to use equipment such as laser engravers, 3-D printers, and vinyl cutters, with afterschool professionals and near-peer mentors facilitating culturally responsive activities and equipping youth with STEM skills to create self-driven projects. The program found that nearly 3 in 4 students (73%) believe they can succeed in STEM and digital fabrication thanks to their participation in the program.

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many Oregon youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In Oregon, for every child in an afterschool program, 3 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 Oregon 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

Oregon students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (70%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (74%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (76%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (93%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (82%)
-  Building confidence (79%)



90% of Oregon parents are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Oregon parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs (77%)



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe (79%)

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of Oregon 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 Oregon, 19,366 children in 115 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 Oregon is so great that more than 1 out of every 3 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, an evaluation by JEM & R, LLC of Oregon's 21st CCLC programs during the 2021-2022 school year found that programs were supporting students' academic growth and well-being. A majority of students agreed that the program helped them feel academically supported (69%) and understand what they're learning in school (65%), as well as helped them with their academic performance (56%). According to teacher surveys, nearly 8 in 10 attendees in need of improvement demonstrated positive changes in their behavior (78%) and most students in programs felt safe (92%) and a sense of belonging (81%) at the program. Approximately 3 in 4 students also agreed that the program has helped them to feel good about themselves (75%), get along with others (75%), and handle problems (72%). Family members said that they valued the program and were satisfied with programming (93%) and the academic support and activities provided by the program (84%).

