

This is Afterschool in Pennsylvania



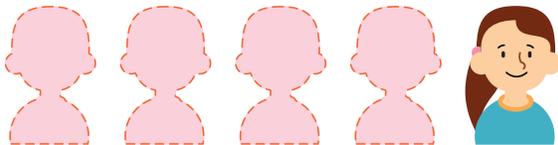
Pennsylvania parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Pennsylvania, approximately 792,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

Demand for Afterschool Programs in Pennsylvania is Enormous

Parents of nearly
1 million children
want afterschool programs



4 in 5 Pennsylvania children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support Pennsylvania Children’s Learning and Development

Pennsylvania parents give programs high marks for quality and for supporting their child with:



Afterschool Works in Pennsylvania

A 2025 Pennsylvania Department of Education evaluation of the state’s 21st CCLC programs found that participating students saw academic and behavioral gains. Programs helped:

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** Teachers reported that 3 in 5 participants who needed to improve their academic performance did. Among students in grades 7 through 8 and 10 through 12 who needed to improve their GPA, 50% achieved a higher GPA.
- ▲ **Improve engagement in learning:** A majority of attendees in need of improvement made progress in their class participation (61%), engagement in learning (58%), and homework completion (57%).
- ▲ **Reduce chronic absenteeism:** Two-thirds of chronically absent students improved their school day attendance.

Greater program attendance hours were consistently associated with greater improvements in behavioral outcomes.

Pennsylvania Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

93%

Agree that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs.



91%

Are in favor of public funding for afterschool programs. Support for public funding is also high across political affiliations.



Afterschool Programs Help Working Families and Strengthen the Economy

Pennsylvania parents report that their child's afterschool program:

86%

Helps them keep their job



95%

Leads to less stress



92%

Boosts productivity



Research has found that **every \$1 invested** in Pennsylvania afterschool programs leads to a return on investment of **approximately \$6.69** by:



Reducing high school student drop out rates



Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



Reducing drug and alcohol addiction and teen pregnancy



If there were not an afterschool program available, what, if any impact would it have on your family?

"It would be harder to manage work schedules, and we would worry more about our child's safety or supervision."

— PENNSYLVANIA DAD

21st Century Community Learning Centers

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21st CCLC) is the only federal funding dedicated to afterschool and summer programs, enabling states to award funds to local programs that meet community needs. 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.

IN PENNSYLVANIA:

28,924
children are served by
a 21st CCLC program

556
communities
served

Demand for programming in Pennsylvania is so great that **1 out of every 3** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Pennsylvania After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/pennsylvania/demand>.
2. Pennsylvania Department of Education. (2025). 2023–24 Pennsylvania 21st Century Community Learning Centers state evaluation report.
3. Joint State Government Commission. (2021). Return on investment of afterschool programs in Pennsylvania: A report of the Advisory Committee.
4. Pennsylvania Department of Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by PA 21st CCLCs, 2023-2024] [Unpublished raw data].

About the Afterschool Alliance

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. Learn more at: www.afterschoolalliance.org

