

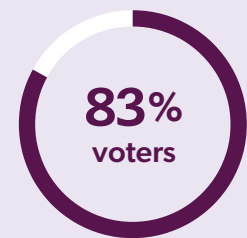
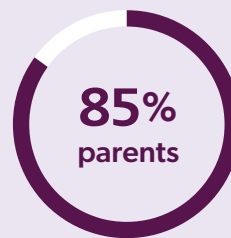
# Afterschool and Summer for All

In a new poll, voters and parents alike agree on wanting afterschool and summer programs in their community and are strongly in favor of policymakers and schools increasing access to programming.<sup>1</sup>

Today, students' academic achievement is slowly seeing a return to pre-pandemic trends. But researchers do not estimate a full recovery in the near future, and studies show students continue to struggle with feelings of stress, isolation, anxiety, and depression. As the nation seeks solutions to help young people amidst these struggles, voters and parents recognize the essential role that afterschool and summer programs can play.<sup>2</sup> Afterschool and summer programs provide hands-on and academically enriching activities, time for students to build connections with one another and caring adults, and opportunities to explore new areas of interest in a space where students feel safe and supported.



**MORE THAN 8 IN 10 PARENTS AND VOTERS agree that afterschool and summer programs are an absolute necessity for their community.**



Agreement on the absolute necessity of afterschool and summer programs is **high** across the board.

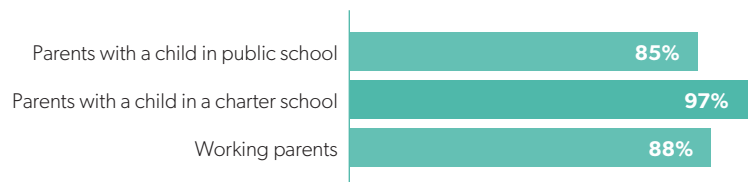
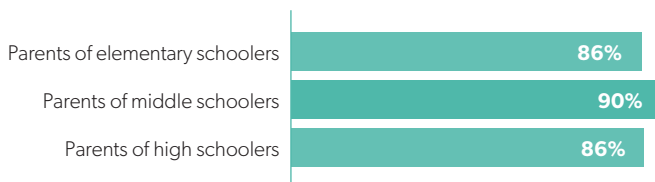
## GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS



## COMMUNITY TYPES



## PARENTS



## Afterschool programs provide the supports students need.

Parents agree that afterschool programs are essential for students to reach their full potential in and out of school. Programs are providing students with the supports that they need, including inspiring learning, supporting students' physical and mental well-being, helping students catch up academically and socially, and building foundational skills like teamwork and communication.

Percentage of parents who **agree** that afterschool programs are:



**89%**

**Inspiring children to learn** by giving them engaging hands-on and fun projects, opportunities to express themselves creatively, and connecting them with caring adults



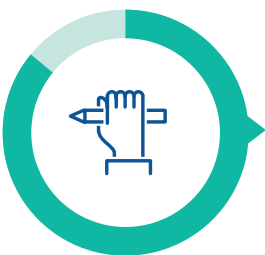
**89%**

**Supporting young people's social and emotional well-being** by helping them develop confidence, communicate and build connections with others, and work in a team



**87%**

**Keeping young people safe** from crime and violence, as well as helping them avoid drug and alcohol use and abuse



**86%**

**Helping young people catch up academically and socially** from the impacts of the pandemic



**85%**

**Helping young people gain foundational skills**, like teamwork and communication, that prepare them for the jobs of the future



**NEARLY 3 IN 4 PARENTS (74%)**

say that it's important to them that schools ensure children have access to afterschool programs that provide them with hands-on activities that complement lessons from the school day, time to communicate and collaborate with their peers, and give them the freedom to explore topics that interest them.



My afterschool program impacted me not only with learning social skills, but helped me grow strong friendships that are loyal and trustworthy."



**Spencer Harrison,  
Pryor, Oklahoma**  
*Tiger Pride Clubs, age 13*



By enjoying all the activities together, we learned how to get along better as a family."

– Parent of student enrolled in Salem Keizer Coalition for Equality summer program

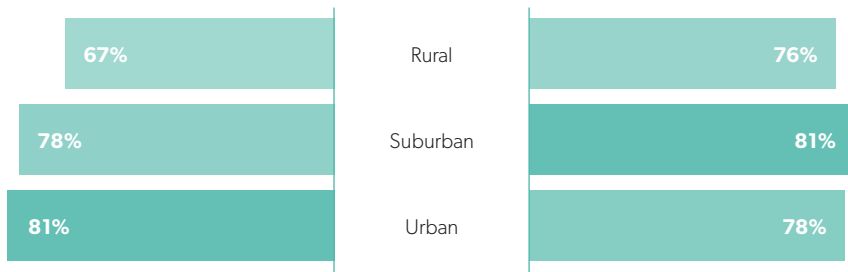
## Afterschool and summer programs are a valuable partner for schools.

Poll results affirm that overwhelming majorities of voters and parents agree that afterschool and summer programs are a resource for schools, offering opportunities for partnerships and accelerating students' learning and recovery.

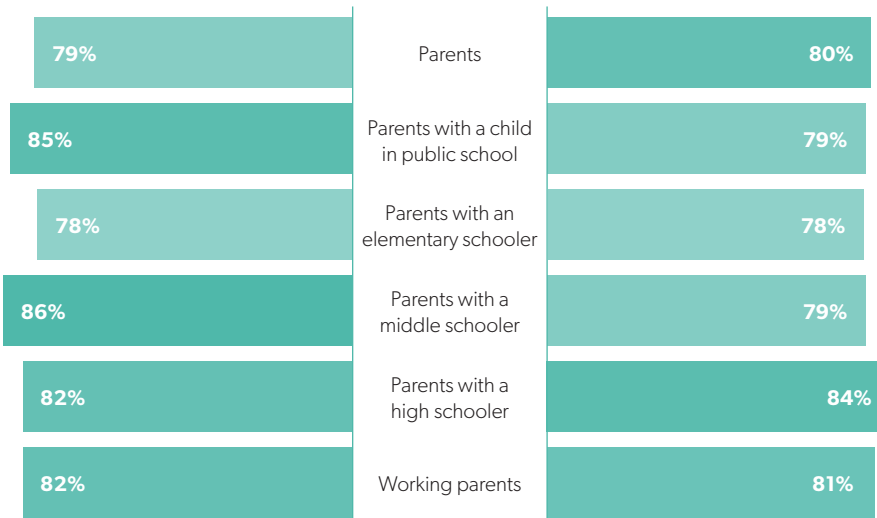
Respondents agreeing that schools should invest some of their COVID-relief funds into...



### COMMUNITY TYPES



### PARENTS



**79%**

of parents and 78% of voters agree that **expanding access to afterschool and summer programs is an important priority** when given the information, "A new federal education initiative called 'Engage Every Student' urges school districts to work with community partners to create new or expand existing afterschool programs so that all kids who want a program can attend."



Being a Breakthrough Miami Scholar has helped me be the goal-oriented, independent-thinking and confident person I am today."



**Jamora Arroyo-Jefferson, Miami, Florida**

PAMM Teen Arts Council, Miami Waterkeeper Junior Ambassador Program, Breakthrough Miami, and The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade Youth Advisory Committee, age 17

# Afterschool and summer programs are a key to recovery

Throughout the extraordinary circumstances created by the pandemic, the afterschool field met the crisis head on, including helping to facilitate remote learning for students, providing meals to address food insecurity among families, and being a resource for students struggling academically and socially. In Missouri, Camp Fire Heartland, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kansas City, YMCA of Greater Kansas City, Upper Room, and Turn the Page KC worked with three school districts and 10 charter schools to provide services before, during, and after school to approximately 1,000 K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students, including helping students with their schoolwork, providing academic enrichment activities, and serving as a go-between for teachers and parents.

In Colorado, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center programs helped families access technology and the internet during remote learning, provided meals and enrichment kits, and regularly checked in with families to see how they were doing. During the current phase of recovery, WINGS for Kids, located at 10 Title I elementary schools in Atlanta, Georgia; Charlotte, North Carolina; and Columbia, South Carolina, provides a range of activities such as arts, dance, coding, and tennis for their K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Staff are helping students adjust to being back in person and providing a space where they feel safe, are learning empathy and expressing how they feel, and are able to reconnect with their peers in a positive and supportive environment.

## To learn more about afterschool programs in your community:

- 1 Reach out to your state afterschool network: <https://www.helpkidsrecover.org/experts-examples/afterschool-state-networks/>
- 2 See examples of how states, local governments, and school districts have invested COVID-relief funds in afterschool and summer programs as a strategy to support student growth and well-being: <http://afterschoolalliance.org/covid/partnerships.cfm>
- 3 Learn about the evidence base demonstrating the academic and behavioral gains students make when regularly participating in quality afterschool programs: <http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/The-Evidence-Base-For-Afterschool-And-Summer-2021.pdf>



When I was in my afterschool program, it became a second home for me. A place where my friends and I felt safe and hung out. Where we got to discover who we were, take risks, and try new things.”



**Madelyn Hinkleman,  
Summit, South Dakota**

*Afterschool Youth Advocate at the South Dakota Afterschool Network, age 16*

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> The online survey was conducted by Lake Research Partners between November 9-14, 2022, reaching 1,400 registered voters, including oversamples of Black, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and Native and Indigenous American registered voters. The margin of error is +/- 3.1%
- <sup>2</sup> Lewis, K. & Kuhfeld, M. (2022). Progress toward pandemic recovery: Continued signs of rebounding achievement at the start of the 2022-23 school year. NWEA. Retrieved from: [https://www.nwea.org/uploads/2022/12/CSSP-Brief\\_Progress-toward-pandemic-recovery\\_DEC22\\_Final.pdf](https://www.nwea.org/uploads/2022/12/CSSP-Brief_Progress-toward-pandemic-recovery_DEC22_Final.pdf); Anderson, K. N., Swedo, E. A., Trinh, E., Ray, C. M., Krause, K. H., Verlenden, J. V., Clayton, H. B., Villaveces, A., Massetti, G. M., & Holditch Niolon, P. (2022). Adverse Childhood Experiences During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Associations with Poor Mental Health and Suicidal Behaviors Among High School Students — Adolescent Behaviors and Experiences Survey, United States, January–June 2021. MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report; 71:1301–1305. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7141a2.htm>



The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs.