



Afterschool Progress Report and Consumer Guide: Arkansas

How Arkansas is Helping to Keep the Lights on After School

Afterschool in Arkansas

Afterschool programs have a long history of support in Arkansas, but program availability is still a major concern in the state. Just 12 percent of K-12 youth in Arkansas are in an afterschool program while 26 percent go home to an empty house after the school day ends. With greater awareness of the educational impact that afterschool programs are having on children in the state, hopefully state funding will come and more children will be able to enjoy the state's rich afterschool offerings.



Growth in Afterschool Participation

For more on afterschool availability in Arkansas check out [Arkansas After 3PM](#).

| Arkansas | 2004 | 2009 |
|---|------|------|
| Percentage of Kids in Afterschool Programs | 8% | 12% |
| Percentage of Kids in Self Care | 18% | 26% |
| Percentage of Parents Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied with Afterschool Program | 86% | 79% |
| Percentage of Kids Who Would Participate if an Afterschool Program were Available | 33% | 44% |
| Percentage of Kids in Summer Learning Programs | -- | 17% |

Based on the FY2011 funding level and an average per student cost of \$1000, 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) can serve 11,883 students in Arkansas. However, that is only a small fraction of the 220,375 kids in Arkansas who are eligible to participate in a 21st CCLC program, if more funding were available.



Developments in State Afterschool Policy and Funding

For an explanation of specific policy activities in Arkansas check out "State Policy and Funding" on the [Afterschool in Arkansas webpage](#).

- ☒ State Offices Administering 21st Century Community Learning Center and Child Care Development Fund Federal Grants
- ☒ Current Law that Directly Supports Afterschool Programs
- ☐ State Level Councils, Studies, Pilots or Legislative Activity Intended to Advance Afterschool
- ☐ Current State Funding for Afterschool Programming
- ☒ An Initiative Promoting Quality Afterschool Programming

KEY



Much More Work to Be Done



More Effort Necessary Despite Some Progress



Making Progress Yet Considerable Work Still to Be Done



Despite Unmet Need, Showing Great Progress



Leading State for Afterschool with Room to Grow

"Good after-school programs can further enrich a student's education while providing safe and well-organized afternoon activities. The same can be said for summer programs, which can keep young minds actively learning during the months between school years."
- Mike Beebe, Governor



Advancements in Afterschool Leadership

To see more partners leading the fight for afterschool in Arkansas check out [Afterschool for All](#).

- ✓ Governor Proclamation Supporting *Lights On Afterschool* in 2010
- ✓ Statewide Afterschool Network
- ✓ Governor's/State Agency Taskforce
- ✓ A Member of the U.S. House of Representatives in the House Afterschool Caucus
- ✓ A Member of the U.S. Senate in the Senate Afterschool Caucus

Afterschool Champions

- State Senator Johnny Key
- State Senator Joyce Elliot
- State Senator Jimmy Jeffress
- State Representative Bobby Joe Pierce

State Network



[Arkansas Out of School Network](#)

1501 North University Ave, Suite 465
Little Rock AR 72207
501-660-1012

Afterschool Caucus Member(s):

Rep. Mike Ross



Sen. John Boozman



Consumer Guide: Arkansas

For many adults in America, thinking about the hours after the school day ends conjures up memories of doing homework, playing pick-up basketball, taking guitar or dance lessons or going home to Mom and a snack. But for millions of children today, those images are nothing like their reality. In fact, each day in America, more than 15 million children—some as young as 5 years old—are without supervision at home or on the streets.

The Afterschool Alliance has a host of resources that can help ensure that your child can enjoy the safe environment and proven academic and social gains that afterschool programs can afford.

- The [How to Find an Afterschool Program Guide](#) offers tips to find the best afterschool options for your child.

- The Afterschool Alliance has resources that describe [what to look for in a quality afterschool program](#) with a list of quality characteristics for programs serving each age group.
- For the ambitious parent or community member, the Afterschool Alliance offers a guide on [How to Start an Afterschool Program](#) including links to various best practices, funding resources and child care guidelines.
- Arkansas has a host of resources to support families, program staff and employers in their pursuit of quality afterschool programs that are both available and affordable:
 - [The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Arkansas](#)
 - [DHS Div. of Childcare & Early Childhood Education](#)
 - [Arkansas 4-H Program](#)
 - [Arkansas Out of School Network - School Age LINKS Newsletter](#)

What You Can Do to Support Afterschool in Your State:



Donate: The store's [pennies from heaven](#) campaign allows jcpenney shoppers to roundup their purchases to the nearest whole dollar, donating the difference to support afterschool efforts. In 2010, \$94,327 was donated through jcpenney's pennies from heaven campaign in Arkansas.



Join the Afterschool Alliance's *Lights On Afterschool* celebration. More than 84 programs in Arkansas participated in [Lights On Afterschool](#) in 2010. Check out *Lights On Afterschool* to find out how to become involved and see which programs are participating in your area.



Sign On: Currently, 46 people in Arkansas have signed the Afterschool Alliance [petition to preserve funding for afterschool programs](#). Join them to promote [afterschool for all](#).



Write to your Members of Congress and [tell them why afterschool is a crucial resource](#) to the children in your community.

Methodology:

The 2011 State-by-State Progress Reports and Consumer Guides are sponsored by jcpenney. Scores for the Progress Reports were devised using a range of factors falling under three major categories: Growth in Afterschool Participation, Developments in State Afterschool Policy and Funding and Advancements in State Afterschool Leadership. Data from the America After 3PM survey, also sponsored by jcpenney, was used in assessing the afterschool participation portion of the Progress Reports. Between March and May 2009, 29,754 parents/guardians were surveyed for America After 3PM. The remainder of the Progress Reports and Consumer Guides were created utilizing up to date policy and leadership developments obtained from afterschool leaders in the states, most notably the forty statewide afterschool networks. The 2011 State-by-State Progress Reports and Consumer Guides reflect the data and resources available at the time of their release in October 2011.

For more information on the 2011 State-by-State Progress Reports and Consumer Guides visit: afterschoolalliance.org/Progress-Reports-Main.cfm.