



## Afterschool Progress Report and Consumer Guide: Colorado

### How Colorado is Helping to Keep the Lights on After School

#### Afterschool in Colorado

Colorado is showing some signs of progress when it comes to afterschool availability. However, many Colorado children (31 percent) go home each day with no care after school, and only 13 percent are benefiting from enriching afterschool programs. With increased funding and greater leadership on this issue, Colorado could succeed in providing even more afterschool opportunities to the 40 percent of children who are not currently participating in afterschool but are interested in doing so if a program were available.



#### Growth in Afterschool Participation

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

Colorado	2004	2009
Percentage of Kids in Afterschool Programs	11%	13%
Percentage of Kids in Self Care	33%	31%
Percentage of Parents Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied with Afterschool Program	95%	90%
Percentage of Kids Who Would Participate if an Afterschool Program were Available	27%	40%
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 (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) can serve 11,809 students in Colorado. However, that is only a small fraction of the 246,099 kids in Colorado who are eligible to participate in a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program, if more funding were available.



#### Developments in State Afterschool Policy and Funding

For an explanation of specific policy activities in Colorado check out "State Policy and Funding" on the [Afterschool in Colorado 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

"The need for more after-school opportunities has been made clear to me in my visits to every high school in my district. Students have told me that if there were more after-school activities, they would participate in them."

- Mark Udall, U.S. Senate



## Advancements in Afterschool Leadership

To see more partners leading the fight for afterschool in Colorado 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

- Shirley Farnsworth, Director of Extended Learning and Community Schools at Denver Public Schools
- Maxine Quintana, Mayor's Office for Education and Children, Denver

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## Consumer Guide: Colorado

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.
- Colorado 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:
  - [Qualistar Colorado](#)
  - [Colorado Afterschool Network - Resource Database](#)
  - [Colorado Department of Human Services - Child Care Assistance Program](#)

## What You Can Do to Support Afterschool in Your State:



**Donate:** The store's [pennies from heaven](#) campaign allows jcpenny shoppers to roundup their purchases to the nearest whole dollar, donating the difference to support afterschool efforts. In 2010, \$104,877 was donated through jcpenny's pennies from heaven campaign in Colorado.



**Join** the Afterschool Alliance's *Lights On Afterschool* celebration. More than 59 programs in Colorado 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, 36 people in Colorado 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 jcpenny. 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 jcpenny, 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](http://afterschoolalliance.org/Progress-Reports-Main.cfm).