



## Afterschool Progress Report and Consumer Guide: New Jersey

### How New Jersey is Helping to Keep the Lights on After School

#### Afterschool in New Jersey

In recent years, New Jersey has been building a strong afterschool network and working toward greater access to afterschool programs for its children in need. Their effort shows, as a large portion of New Jersey parents are satisfied with afterschool program availability (95 percent), and the state is a leader in the number of hours per week children spend in afterschool programs (10.48). These are the marks of a state that provides immense benefits to both its children and its parents during the after school hours. Yet recent cuts to afterschool funding will likely result in more children without access to quality afterschool opportunities, and without the help of state policy makers, New Jersey may well see its progress reversed.



#### Growth in Afterschool Participation

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

New Jersey	2004	2009
Percentage of Kids in Afterschool Programs	12%	14%
Percentage of Kids in Self Care	23%	28%
Percentage of Parents Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied with Afterschool Program	91%	95%
Percentage of Kids Who Would Participate if an Afterschool Program were Available	28%	35%
Percentage of Kids in Summer Learning Programs	--	33%

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 22,812 students in New Jersey. However, that is only a small fraction of the 435,192 kids in New Jersey 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 New Jersey check out "State Policy and Funding" on the [Afterschool in New Jersey 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

*"To prevent juvenile crime, we need to keep New Jersey's children safe, healthy, and off the streets. We're working together at the local, state, and federal levels to give our children real opportunities and alternatives to turning to gangs and crime. [We] will keep fighting to fund after school, anti-drug, and anti-violence programs."*

- Frank R. Lautenberg, U.S. Senate



## Advancements in Afterschool Leadership

To see more partners leading the fight for afterschool in New Jersey 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

- PSE&G Foundation President Vaughn McKoy
- Susan Martz, NJ Department of Education
- Pat Mennuti, Executive Director of Community Coordinated Child Care of Union County
- Cheryl Thompson, NJ Office of Licensing

## State Network



[New Jersey School Age Care Coalition](#)

231 North Avenue West, Suite 363  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
908-789-0259

## Afterschool Caucus Member(s):

Rep. Rush Holt



Rep. Donald Payne



Sen. Frank Lautenberg



Sen. Robert Menendez



## Consumer Guide: New Jersey

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.
- New Jersey 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:
  - [NJ Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies](#)
  - [NJ After 3](#)

## 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, \$108,624 was donated through jcpenny's pennies from heaven campaign in New Jersey.



**Join** the Afterschool Alliance's *Lights On Afterschool* celebration. More than 137 programs in New Jersey 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, 101 people in New Jersey 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).