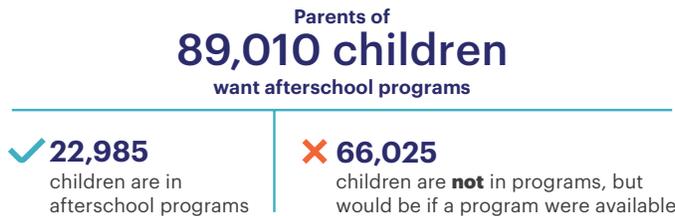


This is Afterschool in Rhode Island

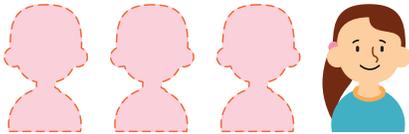


Rhode Island parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Rhode Island, approximately 66,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

Demand for Afterschool Programs in Rhode Island is Enormous



Approximately 3 in 4 Rhode Island children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support Rhode Island Children’s Learning and Development

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



Afterschool Works in Rhode Island

In a 2024 U.S. Department of Education report on 21st CCLC programs nationally, Rhode Island students attending programs saw both academic and behavioral improvements. Programs helped:

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** More than 2 in 5 participants in 4th through 8th grade demonstrated growth on the state’s reading/language arts (44%) and math assessments (47%). Additionally, 57% of 7th through 8th and 10th through 12th grade students with a GPA below 3.0 the previous year improved their GPA.
- ▲ **Reduce chronic absenteeism:** 68% of chronically absent students improved their school-day attendance.
- ▲ **Improve engagement and behavior:** 79% of 1st through 5th grade participants improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning, and 74% of all students decreased their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.

Rhode Island Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

86%

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



89%

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

Rhode Island parents report that their child's afterschool program:

78%

Helps them keep their job



93%

Leads to less stress



91%

Boosts productivity



Additionally, research spanning several states shows that **every \$1 invested** in afterschool programs **saves at least \$3** by:



Increasing kids' earning potential as adults



Improving kids' performance at school



Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



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

"A sibling, or I would have to stay with my 7th grader. For me, it would obviously cut into my employment hours. For one of his siblings, it would probably be an inconvenience, but also interfere with their own after school activities."

— RHODE ISLAND 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 RHODE ISLAND:

5,842

children are served by a 21st CCLC program

44

communities served

Demand for programming in Rhode Island is so great that nearly **2 out of every 5** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Rhode Island After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/rhode-island/demand>.
2. U.S. Department of Education. (2024). *21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) analytic support for evaluation and program monitoring: An overview of the 21st CCLC performance data: 2022-2023 (19th report)*. Washington, DC.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Rhode Island Department of Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by RI 21st CCLCs, 2024-2025] [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

