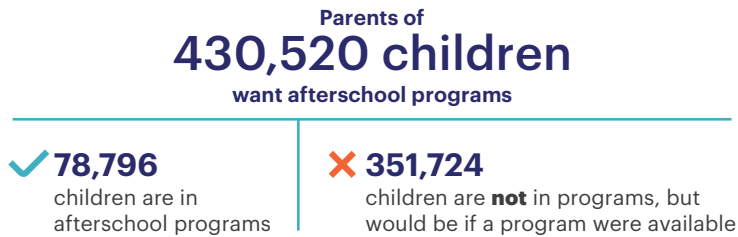


This is Afterschool in South Carolina

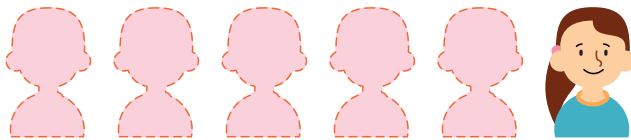


South Carolina parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In South Carolina, more than 351,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

Demand for Afterschool Programs in South Carolina is Enormous



Nearly 5 in 6 South Carolina children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support South Carolina Children’s Learning and Development

South Carolina parents give programs high marks for quality and for supporting their child with:



Afterschool Works in South Carolina

A 2023 evaluation of South Carolina’s 21st CCLC programs by the American Institutes for Research found that programs helped:

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** Teachers reported that more than 7 in 10 students who regularly attended programming and needed to show improvement made gains in their academic performance (76%).
- ▲ **Improve engagement and behavior:** A strong majority of students improved their attentiveness in class (69%), motivation to learn (67%), and classroom behavior (57%).
- ▲ **Promotion to the next grade:** Nearly all regularly attending students were promoted to the next grade (97%).

Additionally, a 2022 evaluation found that students who attended programs for 60 days or more over two years had fewer school-day absences and disciplinary incidents than their non-participating peers.

South Carolina Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

88%

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

South Carolina parents report that their child's afterschool program:

91%

Helps them keep their job



95%

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?

"Balancing work and childcare would be challenging without an afterschool program, and my child would miss valuable learning and social opportunities."

— SOUTH CAROLINA 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 SOUTH CAROLINA:

12,241

children are served by a 21st CCLC program

144

communities served

Demand for programming in South Carolina is so great that **1 out of every 5** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *South Carolina After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/south-carolina/demand>.
2. Kazi, S., Lauren, S., & Sniegowski, S. (2023). *South Carolina Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers statewide evaluation 2021-22 program year report*. American Institutes for Research; Sniegowski, S., Belmont, A., Stargel, L., & Lentz, A. (2022). *South Carolina Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers statewide evaluation*. American Institutes for Research.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. South Carolina Department of Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by SC 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

