

This is Afterschool in Tennessee

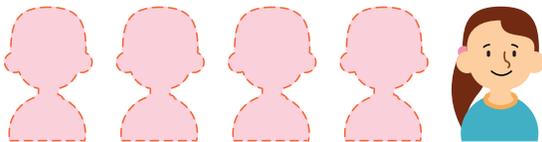


Tennessee parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Tennessee, more than 453,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

Demand for Afterschool Programs in Tennessee is Enormous



Approximately 4 in 5 Tennessee children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support Tennessee Children's Learning and Development

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



Afterschool Works in Tennessee

A 2023 statewide evaluation of Tennessee's 21st CCLC programs by the UT College of Social Work, Office of Research and Public Service found that participation in the program helped:

Boost academic performance: A quarter of 7th through 8th and 10th through 12th grade participants with a prior-year GPA below 3.0 demonstrated improvement.

Reduce chronic absenteeism: 66% of chronically absent students improved their school-day attendance rate.

Improve engagement and behavior: 73% of participants improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning, and 62% of students reduced their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.

The evaluation found that students attending the program at higher levels experienced greater academic and behavioral gains.

Tennessee Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

83%

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



90%

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

Tennessee parents report that their child's afterschool program:

83%

Helps them keep their job



97%

Leads to less stress



90%

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?

"I would have some unnecessary added stress or worry about my child during after school hours, and my child wouldn't get the career training that she is currently receiving."

— TENNESSEE MOM

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 TENNESSEE:

20,531
children are served by
a 21st CCLC program

327
communities
served

Demand for programming in Tennessee is so great that **1 out of every 2** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Tennessee After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/tennessee/demand>.
2. University of Tennessee College of Social Work Office of Research & Public Service. (2023). *21st CCLC statewide performance indicator report*.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Tennessee Department of Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by TN 21st CCLCs, 2025-2026] [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

