

# This is Afterschool in Utah



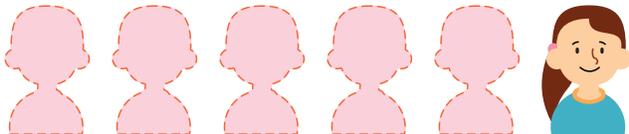
Utah parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Utah, more than 290,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

## Demand for Afterschool Programs in Utah is Enormous

Parents of **348,357** children want afterschool programs



5 in 6 Utah children are missing out.



## Afterschool Programs Support Utah Children’s Learning and Development

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



## Afterschool Works in Utah

In a 2024 U.S. Department of Education report on 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs nationally, Utah students attending 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC afterschool programs saw both academic and behavioral improvements. Programs helped:

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** Approximately 2 in 5 participants in grades 4 through 8 demonstrated growth on the state’s reading/language arts (40%) and math assessments (37%).
- ▲ **Reduce chronic absenteeism:** About half (48%) of chronically absent students improved their school-day attendance.
- ▲ **Improve engagement and behavior:** 71% of 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade participants improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning, and 56% of all students decreased their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.

# Utah Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

79%

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

Utah parents report that their child's afterschool program:

70%

Helps them keep their job



92%

Leads to less stress



79%

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 huge impact. We are working parents who rely on this program to keep our daughters safe while we maintain our responsibilities at work."

— UTAH MOM

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) is the only federal funding dedicated to afterschool and summer programs, enabling states to award funds to local programs that meet community needs. 21<sup>st</sup> 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 UTAH:

9,088

children are served by a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program

77

communities served

Demand for programming in Utah is so great that **4 out of every 5** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

### Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Utah After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/utah/demand>.
2. U.S. Department of Education. (2024). *21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) analytic support for evaluation and program monitoring: An overview of the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC performance data: 2022-2023 (19<sup>th</sup> 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. Utah State Board of Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by UT 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)

