

# This is Afterschool in Vermont



Vermont 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 Vermont, nearly 25,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

## Demand for Afterschool Programs in Vermont is Enormous

Parents of  
**36,895 children**  
want afterschool programs

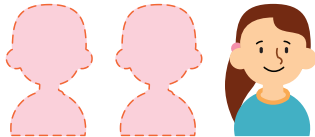
✓ **11,952**

children are in afterschool programs

✗ **24,943**

children are **not** in programs, but would be if a program were available

Approximately 2 in 3 Vermont children are missing out.



## Afterschool Programs Support Vermont Children's Learning and Development

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

**91%**

A safe environment



**67%**

Excitement about learning



**72%**

Teamwork + critical thinking skills



**95%**

Time with peers + building social skills



**4.06**

Quality Rating



**82%**

Excellent or Very Good

## Afterschool Works in Vermont

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

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** Nearly half (46%) of 7<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade participants with a prior-year GPA below 3.0 demonstrated improvement.
- ▲ **Reduce chronic absenteeism:** 68% of chronically absent students improved their school-day attendance.
- ▲ **Improve engagement and behavior:** 34% of 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade participants improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning, and 58% of all students decreased their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.

An earlier statewide evaluation found that participants reported feeling a sense of belonging (70%) and that they mattered in the program (69%).

# Vermont Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

87%

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

Vermont parents report that their child's afterschool program:

82%

Helps them keep their job



85%

Leads to less stress



77%

Boosts productivity



Research has found that **every \$1 invested** in Vermont afterschool programs leads to a return on investment of **just over \$2** by:



Reducing student drop out rates



Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



Reducing drug and alcohol addiction and teen pregnancy



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

"It would limit the hours we were available to work, which would limit the income we could make, affecting everything from bills to food on the table."

— VERMONT DAD

## 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 VERMONT:

10,769

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

94

communities served

Demand for programming in Vermont is so great that **3 out of every 5** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

### Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Vermont After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/vermont/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.; Schwab, E. (2019). *21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers statewide evaluation report*. Vermont Agency of Education.
3. Vermont Afterschool, Inc. (2014). Investing in expanded learning opportunities (ELOs) in Vermont yields a \$2.18 return on every dollar spent!
4. Vermont Agency of Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by VT 21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs, 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)

