



# This is Afterschool in Washington

In Spokane County, Washington, approximately \$210,000 in pandemic relief funding was dedicated to expand the capacity of Camp Fire’s summer program, Camp Dart-Lo. The program serves more than 800 youth ages 3-14 every summer, and funding was used to broaden camp facility accessibility and provide new programming to youth who were most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Camp activities included archery, canoeing, hiking, ropes courses, swimming, outdoor skills, singing, and leadership. Participants have shown growth, with 71% reporting that they feel more confident meeting new people. In addition, 89% of campers’ parents or guardians agreed that Camp Dart-Lo is an inclusive camp that values each camper as an individual with individual needs, and 84% felt that their camper received positive adult mentoring at Camp Dart-Lo.

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many Washington youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In Washington, for every child in an afterschool program, 5 more would participate if a program were available. And a national fall 2023 survey of afterschool program providers found that nearly 3 in 4 are concerned about their program’s long-term funding and future. Afterschool and summer programs across Washington are accelerating students’ growth, supporting students’ well-being, and helping working families. To keep their doors open, these programs need additional investments at the local, state, and federal levels.

## IMPROVING SCHOOL-DAY ENGAGEMENT AND REDUCING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM







A 2023 U.S. Department of Education report on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC)—local before-school, afterschool, and summer learning programs that serve more than 1.3 million students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools—found that:

**7 IN 10** students in the program demonstrated an **IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN LEARNING**

**NEARLY HALF** of students who were **CHRONICALLY ABSENT** the previous year **IMPROVED THEIR SCHOOL-DAY ATTENDANCE**

## AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ACCELERATE STUDENTS’ ACADEMIC GROWTH AND SUPPORT THEIR WELL-BEING

Washington students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (60%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (82%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (63%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (88%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (82%)
-  Building confidence (83%)



**92%** of Washington parents are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program

## AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Washington parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs **(82%)**



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe **(83%)**

## AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of Washington parents favor public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs.



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

With strong public support, a national survey found that approximately 8 in 10 registered voters said that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity for their community (79%) and that they want their federal, state, and local leaders to provide more funding for programs (80%).

## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (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. The 2023 Department of Education annual performance report of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC found that among regular participants:



**MORE THAN 1 IN 2** improved their GPA



**7 IN 10** improved their engagement in learning



**2 IN 5** saw a decrease in school suspensions

In Washington, 15,243 children in 174 communities take part in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center. 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grants are the only dedicated federal funding sources that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programming in Washington is so great that more than 2 out of every 5 applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

## AFTERSCHOOL WORKS

Studies have shown that students regularly participating in quality afterschool programs attend school more often, are more engaged in school, get better grades, and are more likely to be promoted to the next grade. For example, a 2023 report by the U.S. Department of Education on 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs nationally included findings showing that Washington students in the program became more engaged in learning and made both academic and behavioral gains. Based on teachers surveyed, 70% of participants in grades 1-5 improved their engagement in learning and 75% of 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students with an attendance rate below 90% the previous school year improved their school-day attendance. A majority of Washington 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC participants in grades 7-8 and 10-12 who had a GPA below 3.0 the previous year improved their average (53%). Students in programs also demonstrated improvements in their behavior in school, with 80% of students decreasing their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year. Additionally, a 2023 evaluation of Washington's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs found that students in the program believed that participation in the program provided academic and social benefits. An overwhelming majority of students said that the program helped them try new things (96%), work hard to get better at something (93%), and do things that challenged them in a good way (91%). They also said programs had a supportive adult who helped them when they had a problem (80%), and who helped them find something they're good at (73%). More than 9 in 10 Washington 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC participants (94%) said that they looked forward to attending their program.

