

# This is Afterschool in Washington



Washington 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 Washington, more than 524,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

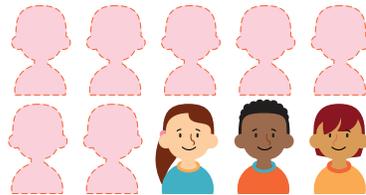
## Demand for Afterschool Programs in Washington is Enormous

Parents of **727,297** children want afterschool programs

✓ **202,725** children are in afterschool programs

✗ **524,573** children are **not** in programs, but would be if a program were available

More than 7 in 10 Washington children are missing out.



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

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



## Afterschool Works in Washington

A 2025 evaluation of Washington State’s 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs by the American Institutes for Research found that programs helped:

- Boost academic performance:** Among students in grades 4 through 8 who were below the median student growth percentile the previous school year, at least half improved, rising above the median level in math (54%) and reading (50%).
- Improve school engagement:** Approximately half of kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students improved their engagement in learning, including participation, focus, and motivation, according to teacher surveys.
- Support students’ well-rounded development:** Almost all 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students felt that programs provided opportunities to try new things (96%), work hard to get better at something (93%), and challenge themselves positively (91%).

# Washington Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

86%

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

Washington parents report that their child's afterschool program:

87%

Helps them keep their job



89%

Leads to less stress



93%

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?

"Without an afterschool program, our family would face child care challenges, added financial strain, loss of academic support, and fewer social opportunities for our child. It could also impact our work schedules and overall work-life balance."

— WASHINGTON 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 WASHINGTON:

9,569

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

105

communities served

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

### Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Washington After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/washington/demand>.
2. Gross, K. & Sniegowski, S. (2025). *Washington Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers statewide evaluation 2023-24 program year report*. 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. Washington State Board of Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by WA 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)



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