

This is Afterschool in Wisconsin

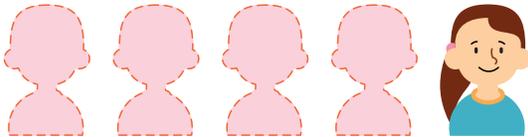


Wisconsin parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Wisconsin, approximately 275,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

Demand for Afterschool Programs in Wisconsin is Enormous



4 in 5 Wisconsin children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support Wisconsin Children’s Learning and Development

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



Afterschool Works in Wisconsin

A 2025 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction evaluation of the state’s 21st CCLC programs found that programs helped:

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** 80% of students agreed that programs helped them improve their grades or do better in school and half of regularly attending older students improved their GPA.
- ▲ **Reduce chronic absenteeism:** 62% of students who were chronically absent the previous year improved their attendance.
- ▲ **Improve school engagement and behavior:** Teachers reported that 63% of elementary schoolers improved their engagement in learning and 97% of all regularly attending students decreased their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.
- ▲ **Support students’ well-being:** Most students agreed they felt safe (96%) and parents reported programs helped boost their child’s confidence and get along better with others (96%, all).

Wisconsin Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

83%

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



85%

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

Wisconsin parents report that their child's afterschool program:

87%

Helps them keep their job



94%

Leads to less stress



85%

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?

"Increased supervision needs, reduced academic and social opportunities, and work-life balance challenges."

— WISCONSIN DAD

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 WISCONSIN:

18,931

children are served by a 21st CCLC program

162

communities served

Demand for programming in Wisconsin is so great that more than **1 out of every 3** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Wisconsin After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/wisconsin/demand>.
2. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. (2025). *Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers 2023-2024 annual report*.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by WI 21st CCLCs, 2023-2024] [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

