

Expanding learning and supports for an equitable recovery

This is Afterschool in Florida



In Florida, afterschool programs provide expanded learning opportunities to 504,759 students and are a lifeline for working families. In Florida, 85% of parents report that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. Yet, too many kids in Florida are being left out. In fact, **for every child in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate** if a program were available.

Helping young people learn, grow, and thrive

Students in afterschool programs in Florida are:

-  Interacting with peers and building social skills **93%**
-  Getting homework help **72%**
-  Taking part in physical activities **88%**

An evaluation of Florida's 21st CCLC programs during the 2018-19 school year by Florida State University's Florida Center for Research in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, found that, based on teacher surveys, program participants improved in academic performance and positive school behaviors. On a scale that ranged from 1 ("declined") to 3 ("improved"), teachers reported that students improved their class behavior (3.0), motivation to learn (2.96), homework completion (2.95), and academic performance (2.91). Students agreed that their programs helped them to solve problems in a positive way (2.68) and get along with others (2.58). They also said that the programs had adults who cared about them (2.8) and made them feel safe (2.77), with 1 corresponding to "not at all" and 3 corresponding to "definitely."

Parents in Florida agree that afterschool programs:

-  Provide opportunities to build life skills **82%**
-  Get kids excited about learning **78%**
-  Reduce the likelihood that youth will use drugs or engage in other risky behaviors **76%**

Call and response: Afterschool programs stepping up during the pandemic

From the outset of the pandemic, afterschool programs have adapted and expanded their services to best meet the needs of the children and families they serve. In Jacksonville, the JAMS program continued providing music, film, visual arts, and dance classes. Its 17,000-sf campus, which typically houses 100 students, innovated to continue serving kids and families during COVID-19 by operating at a reduced capacity. Thanks to a tent school outside the Gargiulo Education Center in Naples, migrant children have a safe place to learn. They too implement safety measures. For example, markers outline six-foot boundaries and spaces are sterilized between each session.

A 2021 national survey of afterschool providers finds programs continue to provide:

Academic enrichment	94%
Time to interact with peers	86%
Physical activity	81%
Snacks or meals	77%
Check-ins with student and families	32%
In-person services during virtual school days*	24%

Looking toward the summer, **79%** of providers will be offering summer programming.

**Among program providers that report that they are offering in-person services.*

21st Century Community Learning Centers

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) are local before-school, afterschool, and summer learning programs that serve students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools, engaging students in hands-on learning activities aimed at supporting their academic growth. They provide a variety of enrichment activities to complement school-day learning and offer educational and support services to the families of participating children.

In Florida, 30,470 children in 536 communities take part in a Community Learning Center.

21st CCLC grants are the only dedicated federal funding source that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programs is so great in Florida that **5** out of every **8** applications cannot be funded.

The 2020 Department of Education annual performance report of 21st CCLC found that among regular participants:



Nearly half improved their math (**48%**) and English grades (**48%**)



69% improved homework completion and class participation



62% improved their behavior

A lifeline for working families

A national survey of parents in the fall of 2020 found that as the pandemic continued to disrupt school schedules, most parents were concerned about their child's social and emotional well-being and connection to peers, as well as their own ability to continue to provide learning support and/or care for their child as virtual school and distance learning extends into 2021.

Based on the 2020 America After 3PM household survey, parents in Florida agree that afterschool programs:

- Build positive relationships between children and adults **77%**
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble **75%**
- Help working parents keep their jobs **83%**
- Provide working parents peace of mind **82%**

A smart investment

Research spanning several states shows that every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by:



- 1** Increasing kids' earning potential
- 2** Improving kids' performance at school
- 3** Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

Additionally, Community Learning Centers leverage diverse partners to meet community needs. A typical program receives \$67,000 from partners to supplement its federal funding. Nationwide, partner contributions totaled more than \$1 billion between 2006 and 2010.

Parents in Florida are behind public investment in afterschool programs

89% of parents favor public funding of afterschool programs to expand opportunities for kids in underserved communities.



Support is strong and bipartisan



88% Democrats



94% Independents



91% Republicans