Helping young people learn, grow, and thrive

Students in afterschool programs in Idaho are:

- Interacting with peers and building social skills 92%
- Getting homework help 72%
- Taking part in physical activities 85%

A 2018 evaluation of Idaho’s 21st CCLC programs by Boise State’s Leads Learning Network found that students and parents viewed the programs in a positive light, with 84% of students agreeing that the adults in the program care about them and 72% liking how they learn things in the program, as well 91% of parents agreeing that the program was a benefit to their child. Additionally, 21st CCLC participants improved from “not proficient” to proficient or higher in English language arts (14%) and math (5%) on the state’s standardized tests.

Parents in Idaho agree that afterschool programs:

- Provide opportunities to build life skills 84%
- Get kids excited about learning 70%
- Reduce the likelihood that youth will use drugs or engage in other risky behaviors 74%

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. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart County, Indiana launched BGC Academy, an academic-focused program with support for virtual learning. They implemented a website and gaming platform, Stride, where students participated in educational activities to earn “bucks” to spend when they get back to the Club. And in Cedar City, Utah, Afterschool All-Stars moved summer programming outdoors, offering a variety of creative activities.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic enrichment</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to interact with peers</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical activity</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snacks or meals</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check-ins with student and families</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-person services during virtual school days*</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

*Among program providers that report that they are offering in-person services.
Support is strong and bipartisan

100% Democrats
96% Independents
83% Republicans

Parents in Idaho are behind public investment in afterschool programs

90% of parents favor public funding of afterschool programs to expand opportunities for kids in underserved communities.

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 Idaho agree that afterschool programs:

- Build positive relationships between children and adults 82%
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble 70%
- Help working parents keep their jobs 77%
- Provide working parents peace of mind 79%

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.

The 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 Idaho, 4,760 children in 79 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 Idaho that 3 out of every 5 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

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