In Maine, afterschool programs provide expanded learning opportunities to 17,439 students and are a lifeline for working families. In Maine, 90% of parents report that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. Yet, too many kids in Maine are being left out. In fact, for every child in an afterschool program, 5 more would participate if a program were available.

Helping young people learn, grow, and thrive

Students in afterschool programs in Maine are:

- Interacting with peers and building social skills 92%
- Getting homework help 69%
- Taking part in physical activities 92%

A 2017 Market Decisions Research evaluation of 21st CCLC programs in Maine found that regularly attending low performing students improved their math (71%) and English language arts (ELA) assessment scores (64%), as well as their grades in math (53%) and ELA (48%). Based on surveyed teachers, students saw gains in positive classroom behavior and engagement in learning.

Parents in Maine agree that afterschool programs:

- Provide opportunities to build life skills 84%
- Get kids excited about learning 74%
- Reduce the likelihood that youth will use drugs or engage in other risky behaviors 75%

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 Portland, community organizations, such as at Breakwater School and Portland Community Squash, worked in partnership with Portland Public Schools to provide meals to families, delivered by busses. With technology provided by the school district, community partners set up virtual learning hubs, where students could learn—having access to the internet, academic support, and enrichment 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 they are offering in-person services.
Parents in Maine are behind public investment in afterschool programs

88% of parents favor public funding of afterschool programs to expand opportunities for kids in underserved communities.

Support is strong and bipartisan

99% Democrats  
87% Independents  
97% Republicans

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. Learn more at: www.afterschoolalliance.org