In New Hampshire, afterschool programs provide expanded learning opportunities to 27,141 students and are a lifeline for working families. In New Hampshire, 90% of parents report that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. Yet, too many kids in New Hampshire are being left out. In fact, for every child in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

Helping young people learn, grow, and thrive

Students in afterschool programs in New Hampshire are:

- Interacting with peers and building social skills 98%
- Getting homework help 59%
- Taking part in physical activities 87%

In a Policy Studies Associates, Inc. evaluation of New Hampshire’s 21st CCLC programs, teachers reported that 64% of student participants were more successful finishing their homework and 60% increased their class participation. In a 2017 Plymouth State University statewide evaluation, more than 8 in 10 principals agreed that 21st CCLC programs enhanced students’ social skills and motivation to learn and helped improve student math and literacy skills.

Parents in New Hampshire agree that afterschool programs:

- Provide opportunities to build life skills 82%
- Get kids excited about learning 71%
- 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. The YMCA of Greater Nashua began providing child care and summer camp programs to children in March 2020. They launched the Y Educational Academy for students to attend virtual school and get help with their school work. They partnered with BellXcel to provide in-person curriculum using LitArt. Each day during the Brain Power Hour, YMCA staff lead students in fun, grade-appropriate educational activities in math, literacy, and writing.

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.
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 New Hampshire, 9,888 children in 65 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 New Hampshire that 3 out of every 10 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 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 New Hampshire agree that afterschool programs:

- Build positive relationships between children and adults 79%
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble 78%
- Help working parents keep their jobs 89%
- Provide working parents peace of mind 90%

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 New Hampshire are behind public investment in afterschool programs

86% of parents favor public funding of afterschool programs to expand opportunities for kids in underserved communities.

Support is strong and bipartisan

95% Democrats
88% Independents
75% 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