

# Expanding learning and supports for an equitable recovery

## This is Afterschool in Texas






 Afterschool Alliance April 2021

In Texas, afterschool programs provide expanded learning opportunities to 749,595 students and are a lifeline for working families. In Texas, 82% of parents report that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. Yet, too many kids in Texas 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 Texas are:

-  Interacting with peers and building social skills **87%**
-  Getting homework help **74%**
-  Taking part in physical activities **84%**

A 2020 evaluation of the Texas Afterschool Centers on Education (ACE)—the state’s 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs—found that students regularly participating in the programs had positive academic and behavioral outcomes. Students attending the program for at least 60 days across two years had a 42% higher chance of being promoted to the next grade level compared to non-participants, with high schoolers having a 470% chance of being promoted to the next grade, and a 6% lower chance of a disciplinary incidence occurring, with the biggest decrease seen among middle schoolers (-14%). Additionally, students who regularly participated in an ACE program had higher school-day attendance rates and CTE credits earned compared to non-attendees.

#### Parents in Texas agree that afterschool programs:

-  Provide opportunities to build life skills **81%**
-  Get kids excited about learning **76%**
-  Reduce the likelihood that youth will use drugs or engage in other risky behaviors **73%**

### 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. ACE Rio Grande City CISD provided academic support and afterschool programming virtually. The Texas ACE program in rural La Grulla serves hundreds of students who do not have technology at home, so staff worked with the school to loan devices and hotspots. The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Houston set up drive-through food pantries, in partnership with the Houston Food Bank, and participated in Hunger Not Impossible, for which families could text “I’m hungry” to a telephone number to place a meal order.

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

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

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

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

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> 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 Texas, 124,429 children in 616 communities take part in a Community Learning Center.

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grants are the only dedicated federal funding source that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programs is so great in Texas that **2** out of every **3** applications cannot be funded.

The 2020 Department of Education annual performance report of 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Texas agree that afterschool programs:**

- Build positive relationships between children and adults **75%**
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble **71%**
- Help working parents keep their jobs **82%**
- Provide working parents peace of mind **83%**

## 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 Texas are behind public investment in afterschool programs

**85%** of parents favor public funding of afterschool programs to expand opportunities for kids in underserved communities.



Support is strong and bipartisan



**91%** Democrats



**81%** Independents



**84%** Republicans