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 21st 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:

<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.
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

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs.

Learn more at: www.afterschoolalliance.org