

This is Afterschool in Maryland



Afterschool Alliance

Throughout the pandemic, afterschool and summer programs adapted and expanded services to meet the needs of children and families. They are vital partners today in supporting students' well-being and academic growth. Yet, too many kids in Maryland are being left out. Prior to the pandemic, a survey of Maryland parents found that for every child in an afterschool program, **3 more would participate if a program were available**. These programs provide safe and supportive spaces to keep young people engaged in learning during a difficult and trying time. So it comes as no surprise that in a national fall 2020 survey, 75% of parents agreed that the experience of the pandemic made them appreciate teachers and afterschool providers more than ever before.

Accelerating students' learning and growth

Students in afterschool programs in Maryland are:



Getting homework help – **70%**



Interacting with their peers and building social skills – **87%**



Taking part in STEM learning opportunities – **74%**

Promoting healthy futures

Parents in Maryland agree that afterschool programs are helping young people to:



Learn life skills – **82%**



Be physically active – **88%**



Build positive relationships with caring adults and mentors – **79%**



Access nutritious foods – **66%**



Build confidence – **84%**



Stay safe and out of trouble – **77%**

Local evaluations of 21st CCLC programs in Maryland found that the programs had a positive impact on participants' academics and behavior. For example, a 2019 evaluation of Afya Baltimore Inc.'s (ABI) 21st CCLC programs found that the majority of regular program participants improved their scores or maintained the highest level on math (61%) and reading comprehension (57%) exams, as well as improved or maintained their math (64%) and English language arts (67%) grades. Similarly, a 2017 evaluation of Frederick County Public Schools' 21st CCLC programs found that a majority of participants made gains in reading (56%) and math (53%). ABI's evaluation also found that compared to the overall school population, regular program participants had higher school-day attendance rates and lower suspension rates, and, based on teacher surveys, most regular participants improved or did not need to improve their academic performance (89%), class participation (86%), motivation to learn (79%), peer relations (74%), and classroom behavior (70%).

American Rescue Plan Funding Helping Increase Access to Afterschool and Summer Programs During the Pandemic

Over the past two years, an overwhelming majority of afterschool and summer program providers have been concerned about their program's long-term funding and future. Costs associated with recruiting and retaining staff, instituting new COVID-19 health and safety protocols, and adding program space to allow for social distancing are a few of the added expenses afterschool and summer programs faced through the pandemic. Funds from American Rescue Plan present a tremendous opportunity to help afterschool and summer programs support the children and families in their communities. For example, supported by Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III funds, the MILES (Mattawoman Instructional Learning Enrichment Support) Academy in Charles County, MD, opened in February 2022. The afterschool program, run by Mattawoman Middle School, employs teachers and counselors and includes academics and enrichment clubs like dance, art, and anime. Approximately one-quarter of the middle school's students are currently enrolled.



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Supporting working families

Parents in Maryland agree that afterschool:

- Helps working parents keep their jobs – **79%**
- Helps parents build connections to their child’s school day education – **65%**
- Provides working parents peace of mind – **82%**

A smart investment

Research spanning several states shows that every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by:

- Increasing kids’ earning potential as adults
- Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency
- Improving kids’ performance at school

Maryland parents want investment in afterschool and summer programs

The overwhelming majority of parents in Maryland favor public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs:

85%
favor public funding
for afterschool opportunities

87%
favor public funding for
summer learning opportunities

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. These programs engage students in hands-on learning activities aimed at supporting their academic growth, provide a variety of enrichment activities to complement school-day learning, and offer educational and support services to the families of participating children.

The 2021 Department of Education annual performance report of 21st CCLC found that among regular participants:

- 1 in 2** improved their language arts or math grades
- 7 in 10** improved their homework completion and class participation
- MORE THAN 3 in 5** improved their behavior in class

In Maryland, **6,586 children in 70 communities** take part in a 21st Century Community Learning Center.

21st CCLC grants are the only dedicated federal funding sources that support local communities’ afterschool and summer programs.

Demand for programming in Maryland is so great that **more than 2 out of every 5** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Transforming Lives

“During the pandemic, it was challenging because I was social distancing and not doing certain activities. But, my 21st Century [Community Learning Center] program has been a place where I’ve been able to meet new friends, communicate, and be social with others. I wasn’t a talker, but now I am! The mentors in my program also helped me stay on top of my work and encouraged me. Without my program, I wouldn’t have the grades I do now, and I wouldn’t be as social as I am. I wouldn’t be able to do a lot of things without my program.”

Kyla Anderson

High school student attending a 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool program



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