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 Texas are being left out. Prior to the pandemic, a survey of Texas 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 Texas are:

- Getting homework help – **74%**
- Taking part in STEM learning opportunities – **76%**
- Interacting with their peers and building social skills – **87%**

**Promoting healthy futures**

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

- Learn life skills – **81%**
- Be physically active – **83%**
- Build positive relationships with caring adults and mentors – **75%**
- Access nutritious foods – **69%**
- Build confidence – **76%**
- Stay safe and out of trouble – **71%**

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.
Supporting working families

Parents in Texas agree that afterschool:

- Helps working parents keep their jobs – 82%
- Helps parents build connections to their child’s school day education – 66%
- Provides working parents peace of mind – 83%
- Improving kids’ performance at school
- Increasing kids’ earning potential as adults
- Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

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

Texas parents want investment in afterschool and summer programs

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

- 85% favor public funding for afterschool opportunities
- 87% favor public funding for summer learning opportunities

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 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.

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In Texas, 124,429 children in 616 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 Texas is so great that 2 out of every 3 applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Learn more at: www.afterschoolalliance.org