

AFTERSCHOOL ALERT POLL REPORT

July 2000



A Report of Findings from the December 1999 Mott Foundation/JCPenney Nationwide Survey on Afterschool Programs

A December 1999 nationwide poll conducted by the Afterschool Alliance and funded by the Mott Foundation and JCPenney provides fresh insight into voters' views on who should be responsible for afterschool programs.

The poll also reconfirms Americans' overwhelming support for afterschool programs. Nine out of ten voting Americans—parents and non-parents alike—want afterschool programs for youth. This level of support remains unchanged across demographic groups, party affiliations, geographic regions and time, since the first poll conducted in July 1998.

Key Findings

Voters want schools and community organizations to work together in providing quality afterschool programs, and prefer that those programs be located at schools.

- ◆ Two to one, voters prefer that afterschool programs be located at schools, but they also want schools and community organizations to work together (70%) and share resources to provide afterschool programs to more children.
- ◆ 89 percent of voters embrace an afterschool program that would use public school buildings to provide children with fun, enriching learning opportunities. *89 percent (July 1998)*

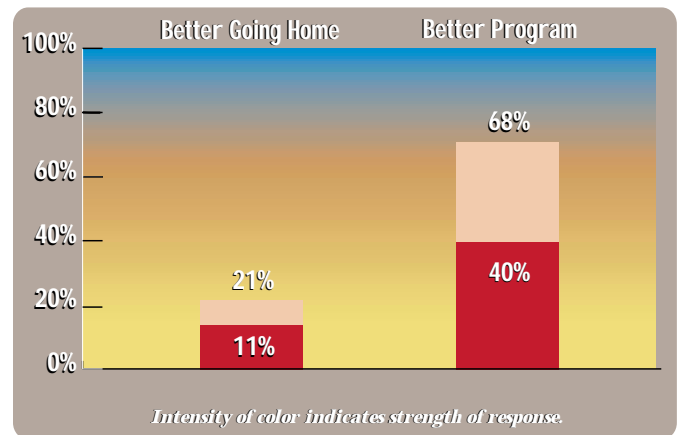
Eight out of ten voters agree that both the federal and state governments should set aside money for afterschool programs, while a majority of voters then believe school districts should be responsible for establishing afterschool programs.

- ◆ 79 percent of voters agree that the federal government should set aside specific funds for afterschool; 84 percent agree that state governments should set aside specific funds for afterschool programs.

- ◆ 52 percent of voters believe school districts should be responsible for establishing afterschool programs, followed by 32 percent for community organizations, 15 percent for churches and 15 percent for “all” (school districts, community organizations, churches, cultural institutions, business, federal/state/local governments).

Two-thirds of voters believe children would be better off taking part in an afterschool program rather than going home after school.

A majority of voters from all demographic groups believe children would be better off in programs.



Nine in ten voters continue to agree that there is a need for some type of organized activity or place where children can go after school.

- ◆ 94 percent of voters agree that there should be some type of organized activity or place for children to go after school every day. *92 percent (July 1999); 92 percent (July 1998)*
- ◆ 94 percent of voters without school-age children (under the age of 19) and 93 percent of voters with children under the age of 19



The findings discussed in this publication are based on a nationwide poll conducted among 800 registered voters between December 18–21, 1999, by the bipartisan polling team of Lake Snell Perry & Associates and The Tarrance Group.

agree that there should be some type of organized activity or place for children to go after school every day. *91 percent voters without children under 19, 94 percent voters with children under 19 (July 1999)*

- ◆ 95 percent of mothers and 92 percent of fathers agree that there should be some type of organized activity or place for children to go after school every day. *94 percent mothers, 92 percent fathers (July 1999)*
- ◆ 98 percent of the Democrat, 94 percent of the Independent and 90 percent of the Republican respondents agree that there should be some type of organized activity or place for children to go after school every day. *94 percent Democrats, 93 percent Independents, 89 percent Republicans (July 1999)*

Voters say it is most important that afterschool programs:

- ◆ provide a safe place for children to go;
- ◆ teach children respect for people different from themselves;
- ◆ provide structured, adult supervision; and
- ◆ teach children ways of resolving conflict with other young people.

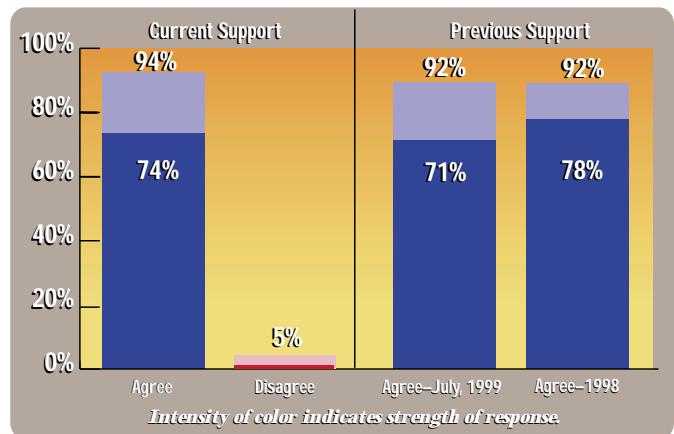
Voters are willing to use additional tax dollars to pay for afterschool programs whether or not they have school-age children. This willingness crosses partisan lines as well.

- ◆ Nearly four out of five parents with school-age children, and two-thirds of those without school-age children, are willing to use additional taxpayer money to pay for afterschool programs in public schools.

Voters are much more favorable toward afterschool programs that provide:

- ◆ tutoring and homework help;
- ◆ practice on subjects where children need work;
- ◆ academic enrichment activities;
- ◆ opportunities to learn new skills;
- ◆ team building; and
- ◆ reinforcement of basic skills.

Since 1998, nine out of ten voters continue to assert the need for organized afterschool activities.



CHARLES STEWART
MOTT FOUNDATION



The Mott Foundation and JCPenney—founding partners in the Afterschool Alliance—funded this survey. For reports on key findings from surveys in 1998 and July 1999, visit www.mott.gov/21stcentury. For information on JCPenney’s commitment to increasing the number of high quality, affordable afterschool programs in communities, visit www.jcpenny.net/company/afterschool.

Initiated and currently coordinated by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Afterschool Alliance grew out of a partnership between the Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education. Its vision is to ensure that every child in America has access to quality afterschool programs by the year 2010. Initial partners in this emerging alliance are:



Afterschool Alliance

- The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- The U.S. Department of Education
- JCPenney
- The Advertising Council
- The Entertainment Industry Foundation
- The Creative Artists Agency Foundation
- People Magazine

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202-296-9378