



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **New Study Finds Tremendous Demand for Afterschool Programs in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County**

*Parents of Students Who Are Enrolled Give Programs High Marks*

LOS ANGELES, CA — Hundreds of thousands of students in L.A. and L.A. County are missing out on the afterschool programs their parents want for them. The parents of 574,848 L.A. children want afterschool programs for them, but just 229,376 students are currently participating – meaning three in five L.A. children are being left behind. **In L.A. County, 1.4 million parents want programs for their children but just 483,422 are enrolled, meaning two in three L.A. County children are missing out.** The barriers that most often prevent enrollment in both jurisdictions are cost, inconvenient locations, lack of a safe way to get to and from programs, and programs not being available in their communities. The average cost L.A. parents report paying for afterschool programs is \$113.90 per week; **L.A. County parents report paying an average of \$108.20 per week.**

Those are among the findings of [a household survey](#) commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance and released this morning by [ExpandLA](#). While California invests heavily (\$4 Billion+) in afterschool programs, known as Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP), the new survey finds that many families still face barriers in accessing them. But parents whose children are attending an afterschool program give it high marks. Ninety-two percent of L.A. parents and 88% of L.A. County parents with a child in an afterschool program rate its quality as excellent or very good. An overwhelming majority of parents in both L.A. and L.A. County (89%) favor public funding for afterschool.

[America After 3PM 2025](#) is based on survey responses from 30,515 American households, with 320 households with 753 children in L.A. and 623 households with 1,290 children in L.A. County screened. It was conducted by Edge Research.

“The afterschool community in Los Angeles is doing powerful work, and the state has made a significant investment but still, there aren’t nearly enough programs to meet the demand and too many students and families are missing out,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “The vast majority of parents in the area who want their child in an afterschool program can’t access one, and that needs to change. Quality afterschool programs are essential to student success in school and life. We need more support from government at all levels, businesses, and philanthropy to meet the demand for afterschool programs in Los Angeles, across California, and nationwide.”

Strong majorities of parents in both L.A. and L.A. County recognize myriad benefits afterschool programs offer to students, with 85% or more in both jurisdictions agreeing programs keep kids safe; build their social skills and responsible decision making; and boost teamwork, critical thinking and leadership skills. These parents also recognize that afterschool programs offer enormous benefits to parents, with 87% of L.A. parents and 85% of L.A. County parents agreeing they help parents keep their jobs or work more hours, and more than 90% of both groups agreeing they boost productivity at work.

“Los Angeles families are sending a clear and urgent message: they want afterschool programs, and there simply aren’t enough seats to meet the need,” stated Lou Calanche, Executive Director of ExpandLA.

“Despite California’s significant investment in ELOP, hundreds of thousands of children across the City and County of Los Angeles are still missing out on programs that keep them safe, inspire learning, and support working parents,” Calanche added. “When nearly 9 in 10 parents support public funding and more than 90 percent of enrolled families rate their programs highly, the case is undeniable. This is not a question of whether afterschool works, it’s a question of whether we will act with the urgency required to ensure every child who wants a program can access one.”

In most respects, the L.A. and L.A. County findings mirror the national survey findings, which include:

**Access is uneven by age.**

- More than half the elementary schoolers not in an afterschool program (58%) would be if a program were available, as would 49% of middle school students, their parents say.

**Cost is the greatest challenge** for families whose child is not in an afterschool program.

- 56% cite cost as an important factor preventing them from enrolling their child.
- These parents cite accessibility as another primary barrier, with 49% saying their child does not have a safe way to get to and come home from afterschool programs and 48% saying program locations are inconvenient.
- Four in ten of these parents (42%) report a lack of programs in their communities.

**Satisfaction among parents with students in afterschool programs is high.**

- Nearly all parents are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program (95%) and rate the quality of the program as excellent, very good, or good (97%).
- Most parents are happy with the opportunities for reading or writing and time to experience the outdoors (both 77%), healthy snacks and meals (75%), and homework help (72%) their child’s program provides; and are satisfied the program helps their child develop social skills (90%); work on communication, teamwork, critical thinking, and leadership (82%); learn responsible decision-making (82%); and build confidence (86%).

**Parents recognize the benefits for children: safety, skills, school engagement, and well-being.**

- The percentage of parents who agree that afterschool programs keep kids safe and out of trouble grew from 66% in 2014 to 78% now.
- More than 8 in 10 parents agree that afterschool programs provide opportunities to learn life skills, like interacting with peers and responsible decision making (85%).
- Three-quarters of parents (75%) agree afterschool programs help children become more excited about learning and improve their attendance.

**Parents say afterschool programs support working families.**

- 85% say programs provide working parents with peace of mind knowing that their children are safe and supervised, and 84% agree these programs allow them to keep their jobs or work more hours.
- 88% of parents with a child in an afterschool program say that it boosts their productivity and 92% say they are less stressed knowing their child is safe.

**Parents want more public funding for afterschool programs.**

- 89% of parents favor public funding for programs that provide afterschool opportunities to students in communities that have few opportunities for children and youth. This is a steady increase from 83% in 2009, 84% in 2014, and 87% in 2020.
- Support is the highest among Black families (92%), families in urban communities (92%), households where both parents work (91%), and working moms (90%).

L.A. and L.A. County *America After 3PM 2025* are made possible with support from ExpandLA. Findings from the new L.A. study are [here](#); from the L.A. County study are [here](#); and the California statewide findings [are here](#). L.A. and L.A. County data were collected between January 31 and June 18, 2025.

The *America After 3PM 2025* study is based on a survey of 30,515 U.S. parents or guardians with a school-aged child living in their household. It was conducted in English and Spanish using a mixed-mode methodology to reach as many households as possible. The margin of error for the national study is +/- <1%. Previous *America After 3PM* surveys were conducted in 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2020. It is made possible through the Afterschool Alliance's partnership with the New York Life Foundation.

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*ExpandLA is an intermediary organization that supports, connects, and advocates for expanded learning opportunities that provide equitable access for all children and youth in the LA area. By working collaboratively with school- and community-based organizations, we will build systems, pathways, and processes that strengthen the field to nurture a young person's natural curiosity, empower their self-development, and cultivate the value they bring to making the world a better place.*

[www.expandla.org](http://www.expandla.org)

*The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*