

Afterschool Alliance COVID-19 Tracking Program Provider Survey - Wave 3 Results

Data are based on an online survey conducted by Edge Research between September 28-October 27, 2020. In all, 1,445 program providers representing more than 7,300 program sites in 48 states and the District of Columbia participated.

SURVEY¹

Screening questions

Which best describes your program? Please select one.

Afterschool program	53%
Summer program	1%
Year-round program	40%
Other (please specify)	6%

Number of respondents: 1,445

Is it typical for your program to be open or closed at this time of year?

Typically open	99%
Typically closed	1%
Not applicable	0%

Number of respondents 1,445

Did your program offer in-person programming during the summer months?

Yes	51%
No	49%

Number of respondents: 1,445

¹ Totals within questions may be different due to rounding.



Current status of afterschool programs

How is your school district or local schools operating this fall?

Open for in-person classes for all students	12%
Open for in-person classes for some students	5%
Hybrid—mix of in-person and virtual classes	55%
Online instruction only	22%
School has not yet started for 2020-21 school year	0%
Something else	5%

Number of respondents: 1,445

To what extent is the program you work in open or closed this fall in regards to serving students, due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

We are completely closed; no in-person or virtual services being offered	3%
We are physically closed, but offering virtual programming for students and families	24%
We are physically closed, but delivering or offering new services for students and families, i.e. meals, activity packets, check in calls	10%
We are physically open in at least some capacity (this includes the range of ways a program is physically open, including, but not limited to, operating as usual, operating only some sites, serving a smaller number of students, or operating both in-person and virtually)	68%
Other (please specify)	5%
Not applicable	1%

Number of respondents: 1,445

IF OPEN. Which of the following apply to your program? Please select all that apply.

We are physically open to all children (including if you are open, but with limited capacity due to health and safety protocols)	83%
We have established new cleaning protocols, employed social distancing, requiring students and staff wear masks, or reduced student to staff ratios	92%
We are physically open, and also providing virtual services for families that prefer that option	40%

We have extended the hours our program is open in-person in order to provide a safe, supervised environment during virtual school days	25%
We are offering onsite snacks and/or meals to students	77%
None of the above	1%

Number of respondents: 976

IF EXTENDED HOURS: You said that your program has extended the hours it is open in person. Please select which of the following apply.

Open for longer in the AM, before school hours	26%
Open for longer during the day/virtual school hours	76%
Open for longer in the PM, after school hours	30%
Other	8%
Not sure/Not applicable	0%

Number of respondents: 241

IF OPEN: Is there or was there a waitlist for your program?

Yes	38%
No	54%
Unsure	6%
Not applicable	2%

Number of respondents: 976

IF PHYSICALLY CLOSED: What are the primary factors preventing you from providing in-person services? Select all that apply

Concern about health and safety for staff and/or youth	66%
Ongoing changes to school district policies and procedures	63%
Lack of access to appropriate space	30%
Social distancing measures not compatible with our program	27%
Lack of access to proper health and safety equipment	12%
Increased cost of running in-person programming	10%

Number of respondents: 394

**Has your afterschool program made a change in staffing this fall because of COVID-19?
Select all that apply.**

Yes, layoffs	10%
Yes, furloughs or suspended work	15%
Yes, reduced hours of staff	25%
Yes, hiring of fewer staff for this fall	36%
Yes, hiring of more staff for this fall	16%
Yes, increased hours of staff to provide services for children of essential workers	11%
No, but anticipate layoffs or furloughs	5%
No change	22%
Not applicable	4%

Number of respondents: 1,445

IF YES LAYOFF OR FURLOUGHS: At this point in time, what percentage of your afterschool program staff has been laid off or furloughed? Your best estimate is fine.

25% or less	36%
26-49%	19%
50-75%	16%
More than 75%	20%
Not sure	9%

Number of respondents: 300

How are you and/or staff in your program being financially supported? Select all that apply.

Being paid full salaries	57%
Being paid partial salaries	6%
Being paid hourly	58%
Being provided with paid leave	12%
Being allowed to use all accrued leave	11%
Full or partial benefits being covered by program	17%
Staff relying on unemployment insurance	7%
Staff are not being financially supported by the program at this time	4%
Other	4%
Not sure/Not applicable	5%

Number of respondents: 1,445

What was the cost-per-child per week in your program during the fall of 2019? Your best estimate is fine. “Cost-per-child” refers to the cost to the program for each participating student per week. This cost is not necessarily the same as the fee charged per child to parents.

\$0	6%
\$1-\$25	8%
\$26-\$50	9%
\$51-\$100	11%
\$101-200	6%
More than \$200	3%
Mean (excluding \$0):	\$145.60

Number of respondents: 1,445

What is the cost-per-child per week for in-person services in your afterschool program this year? Your best estimate is fine. “Cost-per-child” refers to the cost to the program for each participating student per week. This cost is not necessarily the same as the fee charged per child to parents.

\$0	6%
\$1-\$25	6%
\$26-\$50	6%
\$51-\$100	11%
\$101-200	7%
More than \$200	4%
Mean (excluding \$0):	\$163.90

Number of respondents: 1,445

Please tell us if your program is currently conducting or plans to conduct any of the following activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

	Currently providing	Plan to provide	Stopped providing
Engaging staff in remote professional development and training	68%	16%	5%

Serving youth remotely/finding alternate ways to stay connected to youth	58%	12%	8%
Serving as a meals site, delivering meals, or distributing other resources to families	53%	5%	8%
Providing a safe, supervised learning environment during virtual school days	53%	9%	4%
Connecting families with community resources (e.g., health or dental clinics, financial planning, mental health services, etc.)	47%	17%	3%
Providing care for children of essential workers	42%	5%	5%

Number of respondents: 1,445

Is your program operating in its usual location and space this fall?

Yes	67%
No	26%
Not sure/To be determined	4%
Not applicable	3%

Number of respondents: 1,445

IF NO OR NOT SURE/TO BE DETERMINED: Why is your program currently unable to, or potentially unable to, operate in its usual location and space this fall?

Schools are closed to community partners	58%
Not enough space for social distancing	30%
No way to safely handle transportation from school to usual location	11%
Other	28%

Number of respondents: 430

Supports and resources important to afterschool programs

At this point in time, how important is funding sources or money to your program?

Extremely or very important overall	81%
Extremely important	52%
Very important	29%
Somewhat important	13%
Not too or at all important overall	4%
Not too important	4%
Not at all important	1%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how important is better guidance and more information to help plan for the future?

Extremely or very important overall	74%
Extremely important	33%
Very important	41%
Somewhat important	20%
Not too or at all important overall	5%
Not too important	4%
Not at all important	1%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how important is better guidance and resources to protect the health and safety of staff and students to your program?

Extremely or very important overall	71%
Extremely important	33%
Very important	38%
Somewhat important	20%
Not too or at all important overall	8%
Not too important	7%
Not at all important	1%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how important is guidance on how to work with school districts and/or local schools regarding schedules and programming in the fall?

Extremely or very important overall	65%
Extremely important	31%
Very important	33%
Somewhat important	21%
Not too or at all important overall	11%
Not too important	8%
Not at all important	2%
Not sure	4%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how important is more online resources or more student access to technology to your program?

Extremely or very important overall	65%
Extremely important	34%
Very important	32%
Somewhat important	21%
Not too or at all important overall	11%
Not too important	9%
Not at all important	2%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how important is finding and paying for protective equipment and cleaning supplies to your program?

Extremely or very important overall	64%
Extremely important	31%
Very important	33%
Somewhat important	22%
Not too or at all important overall	10%
Not too important	9%
Not at all important	1%
Not sure	3%

Number of respondents: 1,445

And which resources would be most helpful to your afterschool program right now? Please pick up to 3.

Updates on COVID-19 relevant to the afterschool field	42%
Virtual programming resources/materials/strategies	40%
Advice on funding streams and securing foundation funds	39%
Online educational resources to share with families	29%
Online trainings for direct-service staff	26%
Advice on how to work with the school district and/or local schools about programming in the fall	26%
Virtual coaching for program leaders and staff	19%
Online trainings for leadership	16%
Advocacy communication tools to use with decision makers	15%
Opportunities to stay virtually connected to others in the field	13%
Other (if other, please specify)	3%

Number of respondents: 1,445

Concerns

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students' mental and emotional health?

Extremely or very concerned overall	84%
Extremely concerned	52%
Very concerned	32%
Somewhat concerned	13%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	3%
Not too concerned	2%
Not at all concerned	0%
Not sure	0%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students missing opportunities for social connections with peers and caring adults?

Extremely or very concerned overall	83%
Extremely concerned	50%
Very concerned	33%
Somewhat concerned	13%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	4%
Not too concerned	3%
Not at all concerned	1%
Not sure	0%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students experiencing learning loss?

Extremely or very concerned overall	82%
Extremely concerned	54%
Very concerned	29%
Somewhat concerned	13%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	4%
Not too concerned	3%
Not at all concerned	1%
Not sure	0%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how concerned are you about losing touch with students in need as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	72%
Extremely concerned	38%
Very concerned	34%
Somewhat concerned	19%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	8%
Not too concerned	7%
Not at all concerned	1%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,445

How concerned are you about your students having adverse childhood experiences?

Extremely or very concerned overall	70%
Extremely concerned	37%
Very concerned	33%
Somewhat concerned	21%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	7%
Not too concerned	5%
Not at all concerned	2%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how concerned are you that there are children in your community who need afterschool programming and are not able to access it?

Extremely or very concerned overall	69%
Extremely concerned	36%
Very concerned	32%
Somewhat concerned	18%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	11%
Not too concerned	8%
Not at all concerned	3%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students lacking a safe, structured environment?

Extremely or very concerned overall	67%
Extremely concerned	34%
Very concerned	33%
Somewhat concerned	19%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	13%
Not too concerned	9%
Not at all concerned	4%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,445

How concerned are you about long-term funding and the program's future as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	64%
Extremely concerned	38%
Very concerned	27%
Somewhat concerned	23%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	11%
Not too concerned	9%
Not at all concerned	3%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students experiencing food insecurity?

Extremely or very concerned overall	59%
Extremely concerned	29%
Very concerned	29%
Somewhat concerned	25%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	15%
Not too concerned	11%
Not at all concerned	4%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how concerned are you about meeting the needs of families who will need afterschool programs for longer periods of time due to schools' mix of virtual and in person teaching?

Extremely or very concerned overall	58%
Extremely concerned	27%
Very concerned	30%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	12%
Not too concerned	10%
Not at all concerned	2%
Not sure	3%

Number of respondents: 1,445

How concerned are you about loss of funding to the program this year as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	57%
Extremely concerned	34%
Very concerned	23%
Somewhat concerned	21%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	19%
Not too concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	5%
Not sure	3%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how concerned are you about maintaining adequate staff through health concerns and new procedures?

Extremely or very concerned overall	57%
Extremely concerned	29%
Very concerned	28%
Somewhat concerned	25%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	14%
Not too concerned	10%
Not at all concerned	4%
Not sure	4%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students not having access to the technology they need at this time?

Extremely or very concerned overall	53%
Extremely concerned	25%
Very concerned	28%
Somewhat concerned	24%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	21%
Not too concerned	14%
Not at all concerned	7%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how concerned are you about finding staff to hire/staffing shortages?

Extremely or very concerned overall	52%
Extremely concerned	28%
Very concerned	24%
Somewhat concerned	23%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	20%
Not too concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	7%
Not sure	5%

Number of respondents: 1,445

At this point in time, how concerned are you about the availability of physical space to offer programming while meeting public health procedures?

Extremely or very concerned overall	51%
Extremely concerned	25%
Very concerned	27%
Somewhat concerned	23%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	22%
Not too concerned	16%
Not at all concerned	6%
Not sure	3%

Number of respondents: 1,445

How concerned are you that new restrictions as a result of COVID-19, such as student/staff ratios, cleaning protocols, and social distancing guidelines, will make it cost prohibitive to offer programming?

Extremely or very concerned overall	47%
Extremely concerned	22%
Very concerned	25%
Somewhat concerned	30%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	21%
Not too concerned	15%
Not at all concerned	5%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,445

How concerned are you about whether families will come back after the pandemic is over as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	47%
Extremely concerned	24%
Very concerned	24%
Somewhat concerned	26%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	25%
Not too concerned	17%
Not at all concerned	8%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,445

How concerned are you about having to lay off or furlough staff in the months to come as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	39%
Extremely concerned	19%
Very concerned	20%
Somewhat concerned	25%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	26%
Not too concerned	18%
Not at all concerned	8%
Not sure	11%

Number of respondents: 1,445

How concerned are you about having to permanently close the program as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	38%
Extremely concerned	21%
Very concerned	16%
Somewhat concerned	23%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	35%
Not too concerned	21%
Not at all concerned	14%
Not sure	5%

Number of respondents: 1,445

How concerned are you about being able to re-hire furloughed staff in the months to come?

Extremely or very concerned overall	29%
Extremely concerned	13%
Very concerned	16%
Somewhat concerned	19%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	29%
Not too concerned	19%
Not at all concerned	10%
Not sure	22%

Number of respondents: 1,445

How concerned are you about paying for staff health insurance and other benefits?

Extremely or very concerned overall	24%
Extremely concerned	12%
Very concerned	12%
Somewhat concerned	16%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	32%
Not too concerned	20%
Not at all concerned	11%
Not sure	29%

Number of respondents: 1,445

How concerned are you about lack of certainty about when our program will re-open?*(Only asked of programs that are closed)*

Extremely or very concerned overall	54%
Extremely concerned	29%
Very concerned	26%
Somewhat concerned	22%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	13%
Not too concerned	8%
Not at all concerned	5%
Not sure	11%

*Number of respondents: 469***How concerned are you about rushing to reopen before it is safe for students and staff?***(Only asked of programs that are closed)*

Extremely or very concerned overall	52%
Extremely concerned	30%
Very concerned	21%
Somewhat concerned	22%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	20%
Not too concerned	14%
Not at all concerned	7%
Not sure	6%

Number of respondents: 469

Future oriented questions

How concerned are you that your program will not be able to provide services next fall for the 2021/2022 school year — in person or virtually?

Extremely or very concerned overall	32%
Extremely concerned	16%
Very concerned	16%
Somewhat concerned	32%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	32%
Not too concerned	24%
Not at all concerned	8%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,445

If the pandemic continues into 2021, which best describes your program's likely situation if you do not receive additional financial support?

Our program will have to raise parent fees or find new sources of revenue	28%
Our program will have to shut down	17%
Our program will not need to make significant changes	26%
Not sure	28%

Number of respondents: 1,445

Is your organization involved in conversations organized by the school district or individual schools about how best to support students' learning this fall?

Yes	70%
No	21%
Not sure/Not applicable	9%

Number of respondents: 1,445

Thinking about the future of your afterschool program, which comes closest to your view today, even if neither is exactly right?

Optimistic/Pessimistic

Optimistic overall	53%
Strongly optimistic	21%
Somewhat optimistic	32%
Neutral	34%
Pessimistic overall	13%
Somewhat pessimistic	11%
Strongly pessimistic	2%

Number of respondents: 1,445

Worst is over/Worst is yet to come:

Worst is over overall	20%
Strongly feel that the worst is over	5%
Somewhat feel that the worst is over	15%
Neutral	51%
Worst is yet to come overall	29%
Somewhat feel that the worst is yet to come	22%
Strongly feel that the worst is yet to come	7%

Number of respondents: 1,445

Respondent Profile

How would you describe the setting(s) for your program? Select all that apply.

Rural	37%
Suburban	28%
Urban	42%

Number of respondents: 1,445

Is your program typically located in a public school?

Yes	68%
No	32%

Number of respondents: 1,445

Which of the following describes your organization? Please select all that apply.

Afterschool program run by a public school or school district	29%
Afterschool program run by a community based organization	21%
Afterschool program run by another non-profit not listed	15%
Boys & Girls Club	9%
Afterschool program run by a child care center	7%
Afterschool program run by a city or town (including Parks and Recreation Department)	6%
Afterschool program operated by a private organization	6%
YMCA	5%
Afterschool program run by a faith-based organization	3%
Afterschool program run by a college or university	2%
Afterschool program run by a charter school	2%
4-H	1%
Afterschool program run by a library	1%
Afterschool program run by a museum or science center	1%
Afterschool program run by a private school	1%
After-School All-Stars	1%
CampFire program	0%
Girls Inc.	0%

YWCA	0%
Other organization, please specify:	10%

Number of respondents: 1,445

Please enter your best estimate for the number of students served by your program for each scenario.

Total number of children served last fall (2019):

0	3%
1-25	6%
26-50	10%
51-100	21%
101-150	14%
151-200	9%
201+	37%
Mean:	435 students
Mean (excluding 0):	451 students

Number of respondents: 1,441

Total number of children that your program served and/or anticipate serving this fall:

0	6%
1-25	14%
26-50	19%
51-100	25%
101-150	10%
151-200	7%
201+	20%
Mean:	205 students
Mean (excluding 0):	217 students

Number of respondents: 1,444

*Total number of students served **in-person** this fall:*

0	26%
1-25	16%
26-50	17%
51-100	18%
101-150	6%
151-200	5%
201+	11%
Mean:	128 students
Mean (excluding 0):	174 students

Number of respondents: 1,442

*Total number of students served **virtually** this fall:*

0	42%
1-25	17%
26-50	12%
51-100	12%
101-150	4%
151-200	3%
201+	9%
Mean:	101 students
Mean (excluding 0):	174 students

Number of respondents: 1,445

How many staff did your program employ during fall of 2019:*Full time:*

0	25%
1-10	58%
11-25	12%
26-50	3%
51-100	1%
101+	1%
Mean (excluding 0):	10 full-time staff

Number of respondents: 1,445

Part time:

0	16%
1-10	43%
11-25	22%
26-50	10%
51-100	5%
101+	4%
Mean (excluding 0):	28 part-time staff

Number of respondents: 1,443

How many staff is your program employing this fall?

Full time:

0	26%
1-10	60%
11-25	11%
26-50	2%
51-100	1%
101+	0%
Mean (excluding 0):	7 full-time staff

Number of respondents: 1,445

Part time:

0	19%
1-10	49%
11-25	18%
26-50	8%
51-100	4%
101+	2%
Mean (excluding 0):	20 part-time staff

Number of respondents: 1,444

What is your best estimate for your program’s overall student population and the racial/ethnic backgrounds of the students you typically serve?

	Mean
Asian	3%
Black or African American	29%
Hispanic or Latinx	22%
Native American	3%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	2%
White	38%

Number of respondents: 992

What percentage of the students served qualify for the free or reduced price lunch program?

25% or less	7%
26-49%	11%
50-75%	19%
More than 75%	54%
Not Sure	9%

Number of respondents: 1,445

What grade level are the students you typically serve? Select all that apply.

Pre-K students	28%
Elementary school students	84%
Middle school students	59%
High school students	33%

Number of respondents: 1,445

What are your program’s primary funding sources? Please check all that apply.

21st Century Community Learning Centers grant (21 st CCLC)	46%
Parent fees	30%
Private donations/fundraisers	26%
Foundation/philanthropic grant	22%
State government funds (not 21 st CCLC)	21%
Local government funds	20%

Other federal government programmatic funds (not 21 st CCLC or CCDF)	12%
Corporations/businesses	11%
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)	8%
Savings	3%
Loans	1%
Other	8%
Not sure	5%

Number of respondents: 1,445