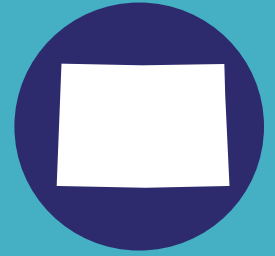


# This is Afterschool in Colorado

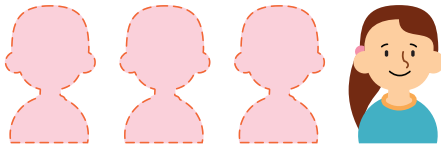


Colorado parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Colorado, more than 347,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

## Demand for Afterschool Programs in Colorado is Enormous



**3 in 4** Colorado children are missing out.



## Afterschool Programs Support Colorado Children’s Learning and Development

Colorado parents give programs high marks for quality and for supporting their child with:



### Afterschool Works in Colorado

A 2025 evaluation of Colorado’s 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs by Catherine Roller White Consulting LLC found that programs helped:

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** A majority of 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students demonstrated growth on their statewide reading (60%) and math assessments (53%); 63% of 7<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders with a prior-year GPA below 3.0 improved their GPA.
- ▲ **Reduce chronic absenteeism:** More than 1 in 3 (35%) 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade participants who were chronically absent the previous year improved their school-day attendance.
- ▲ **Improve school-day engagement:** 82% of 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders demonstrated improvement in teacher-reported school-day engagement.

The evaluation finds a correlation between program dosage and improvements in academic performance and school-day attendance, with students attending more regularly generally experiencing the greatest gains.

# Colorado Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

89%

Agree that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs.



89%

Are in favor of public funding for afterschool programs. Support for public funding is also high across political affiliations.



## Afterschool Programs Help Working Families and Strengthen the Economy

Colorado parents report that their child's afterschool program:

90%

Helps them keep their job



97%

Leads to less stress



95%

Boosts productivity



Additionally, research spanning several states shows that **every \$1 invested** in afterschool programs **saves at least \$3** by:



Increasing kids' earning potential as adults



Improving kids' performance at school



Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



**If there were not an afterschool program available, what, if any impact would it have on your family?**

"It would impact my family tremendously! I wouldn't be able to work the hours I need to support my family."

— COLORADO MOM

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) is the only federal funding dedicated to afterschool and summer programs, enabling states to award funds to local programs that meet community needs. 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC 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.

IN COLORADO:

**23,202**  
children are served by  
a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program

**91**  
communities  
served

Demand for programming in Colorado is so great that nearly **3 out of every 4** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

### Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Colorado After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/colorado/demand>.
2. Catherine Roller White Consulting, LLC. (2025). *21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers statewide evaluation report: 2022–2023 program year*. Colorado Department of Education.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Colorado Department of Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by CO 21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs, FY2024-2025] [Unpublished raw data].

### About the Afterschool Alliance

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

