West
Northeast

CHALLENGES REMAIN PROVIDING A SAFE AND SUPERVISED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT DURING VIRTUAL SCHOOL DAYS

Supporting essential workers providing virtual and physical spaces for children throughout the pandemic

Connections during an isolating and difficult time.

In December 2019, the first news broke of a virus outbreak infecting people in Wuhan, China. By the end of the year, the flavor of the world changed forever. The afterschool field met the crisis head-on by meeting the most pressing needs, such as providing care for children of essential workers and helping families during times of economic uncertainty.

The series demonstrates that through the ups and downs, afterschool professionals persevered, providing meals to children and families struggling with food insecurity, navigating changing health and safety regulations and guidelines; managed to remain a vital service for children and families in the midst of COVID-19. The afterschool field's experience throughout the pandemic has been a rollercoaster ride responding to the coronavirus and its aftermath.

Where Did All the Afterschool Staff Go?

In New York State, the Family YMCA of the Glens Falls Area reached far beyond their afterschool program to support parents in need. In those early days of the pandemic, the program listened to families and guardians, prioritized making connections and interactions, and worked to ensure that families were OK during this challenging time.

In the early days of the pandemic, afterschool and summer programs worked to ensure that children were safe and had opportunities to interact with their peers and be active and outdoors. Remote learning increased the need for access to technology and the afterschool field rose to the challenge by expanding their programs to provide in-person services to students.

Similarly, the number of students served trended upwards, with the total number of students served closing through the pandemic.

While most programs were open in some capacity, they faced the challenges of maintaining a safe and supervised learning environment during virtual school days.

The afterschool field has found ways to sustain themselves through the pandemic and increasingly provide in-person services to students.

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Nearly all afterschool programs had to make difficult decisions to manage students’ schedules, keep kids on task, and provide brain breaks when needed. The afterschool field has been challenged to navigate changing health and safety protocols during a time of extreme uncertainty.

Over the course of the pandemic, many afterschool programs managed to remain a vital service for children and families in the midst of COVID-19. The afterschool field's experience throughout the pandemic has been a rollercoaster ride responding to the coronavirus and its aftermath.

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