

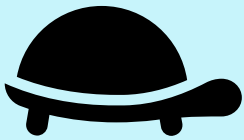
Policy and Funding in 2025: White House and Congress

January 15, 2025



Afterschool Alliance

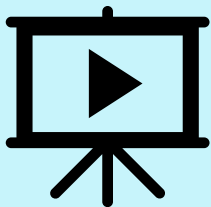
Housekeeping



Experiencing delays? Try closing out of other programs running on your computer.



Have a question or comment? Use the chat to interact with presenters and other participants.



This webinar is being livestreamed and recorded — we will share a link to the recording and all resources after the presentation.

Panelists



Erik Peterson
Senior VP of Policy
Afterschool Alliance



Jillian Luchner
Policy Director
Afterschool Alliance



Jen Rinehart
Senior VP of Strategy and Programs
Afterschool Alliance



Rachel Miller
Director of the SHINE program
Lehigh Carbon Community College

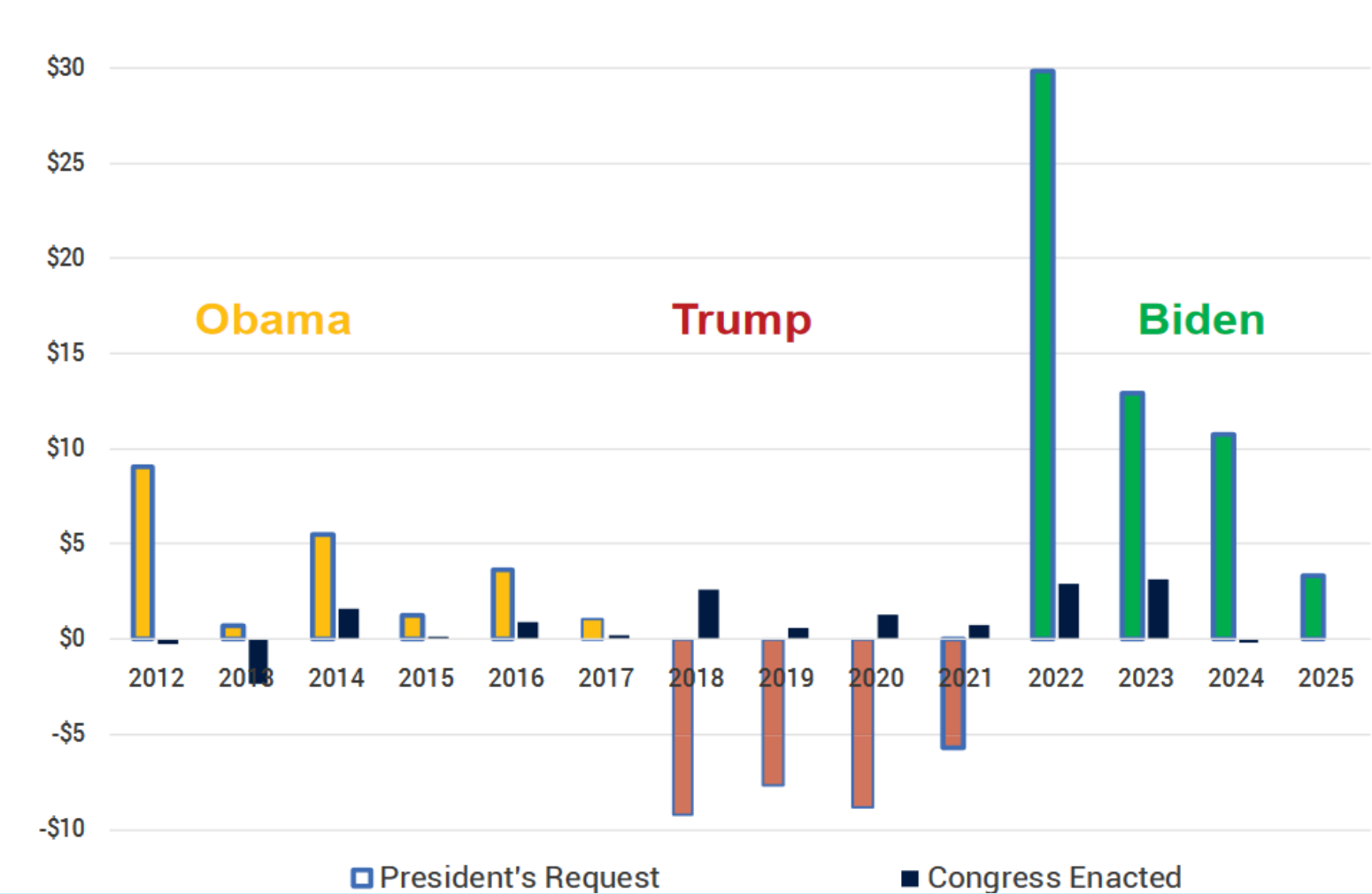
Federal Policy Outlook: The New Administration

- Shift schools to prioritize job readiness, workforce pathways, Project Based Learning, and apprenticeships/internships
 - Local and state control: block grants to states to determine use of funds; school choice and vouchers
 - Eliminate or de-emphasize the Department of Education
 - Cut federal spending, increase efficiency (DOGE)
 - Child care – neutral
 - STEM: supportive for jobs
 - Extend Tax cuts
- **However** – important to note many of these were priorities for previous Trump Administration

Department of Education Funding: President's Requested Change and Enacted Change



Billions of Discretionary Dollars, Change vs Prior Year



Federal Policy Outlook: The 119th Congress

Congressional Advocacy in 2025

Reconciliation

- What: Mandatory spending (No changes to 21st CCLC) – Tax Credits/Cuts and More – Could determine how much money is available in govt budget overall for appropriations
- When: Potentially very soon (before FY 25 Budget is finalized)
- Who: Budget Committee, Authorization Committees, Everyone
- Action: Site Visits/News Articles

FY 25 Appropriations

- What: Discretionary funding levels for all programs (21st CCLC, Title I, CTE, AmeriCorps, CCDBG) – SAVE 21st CCLC
- When: Current Continuing Resolution (extension) expires March 14
- Who: Appropriations Committees and Approps LHHS Subcommittees (Everyone)
- Action: Site Visits/News Articles

*Look Out!
Possible
Second
Reconciliation!*



FY 26 Appropriations

- What: Discretionary funding levels for all programs (21st CCLC, Title I, CTE, AmeriCorps, CCDBG) – SAVE 21st CCLC
- When: After FY 25 Appropriations are finalized, suggested amounts by summer, final due by Sept 30, 2025
- Who: Appropriations Committees and Approps LHHS Subcommittees (Everyone)
- Action: Site Visits/News Articles

Federal Policy Outlook: The 119th Congress

Key Congressional Committee Leadership:

Senate HELP Committee: Chair Bill Cassidy (R-LA); Ranking Member Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

Senate Appropriations Committee: Chair Susan Collins (R-ME), Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA)

- Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Shelly Capito (R-WV), Ranking Member Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)

House Committee on Education and the Workforce: Chair Tim Walberg (R-MI); Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA)

House Appropriations Committee: Chair Tom Cole (R-OK); Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

- House LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee: Chair Robert Aderholt (R-AL); Ranking Member Rose DeLauro (D-CT)

Key Congressional Committee Members:

Senate HELP Committee

Senate Appropriations Committee

House Education and the Workforce Committee

House Appropriations Committee

Weaving in Afterschool

Afterschool is essential to youth education and development.



Project-based, hands-on learning, students learn from experience in informal settings
Empower students and prepare for jobs with project based learning



Literacy, STEM, and Math Supports
Teaching Fundamentals, Revive industrial Base and Advancing Technologies in our Military



Choice: Innovative curriculum and educator techniques that meets local student needs
Cherish Teachers and Support Local Control



21st Century Skills – Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, Leadership
Prepare students for successful lives



Career awareness and experience; Interest cultivation and broad partnership development
Meaningful work experience

Weaving in Afterschool

Afterschool is Effective for Supporting Families and Society



Improves **attendance** among chronically absent students through youth engagement
14 States (R and D) made pledges in 2024 to cut chronic absenteeism



High quality programs improve student math and reading **achievement**
Focus on International Comparisons



Positively impacts youth **well-being** mitigating growing challenges with youth mental health and social media addiction
School Safety



Economic impacts keep parents in the full-time, year round **workforce** with safe, affordable spaces for youth
Valuing the foundational role of families, and supports working parents



Return on investment of at least \$3 for every one dollar invested
Concern for American investments in education

Weaving in Afterschool

Plan a site visit and collect stories to make the case!

Opportunities must be expanded - not cut



Afterschool is an essential AND **unique** piece of the education puzzle. Combining it with other education funds eliminates its capacity to innovate and engage in locally relevant ways to meet student and family need.



Funding is critical. Impacts are seen in **high quality programs**, which require well-supported staff and well-designed curriculum.



Quality programs require an **infrastructure** such as afterschool standards, professional development, and field coordination. Infrastructure requires federal and state system level investments and partnerships such as statewide afterschool networks.



Child care grants and subsidies, a popular bi-partisan investment through CCDBG, support working families **but policy must match the ages of youth served** to be efficient.



Tax structures can be designed to reap the ROI benefits of child care and afterschool. Ensure any reconciliation allows substantial funding for these investments, including by considering how reduced **tax breaks for corporations could be reinvested in youth**. Child tax Credit expansions could be made permanent.

Making the Case for Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs



Afterschool Alliance

What we know...

“

**Here's
what
young
people are
saying:**

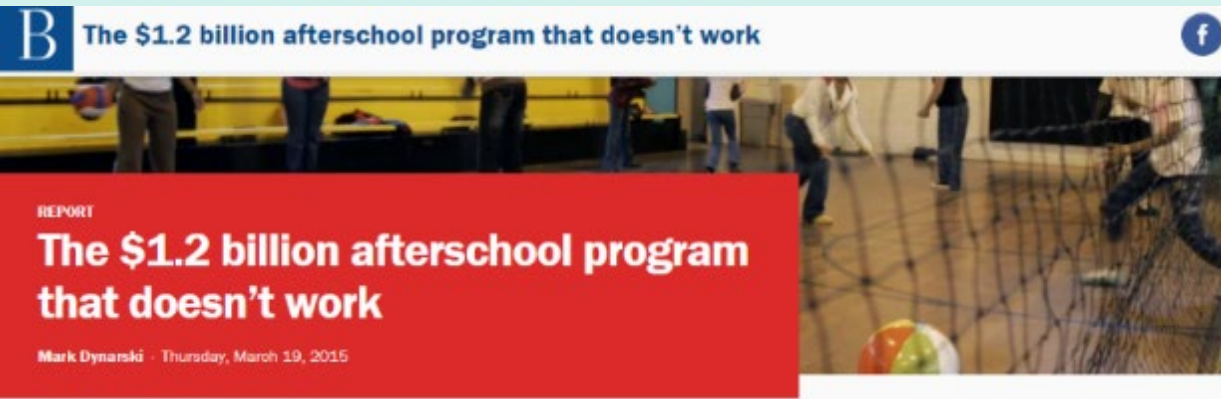
I feel so safe at [my
afterschool] program. It's
my second home. I
wouldn't trade it for
anything in the world. This
program has given me the
mentorship and community
I need to try new things,
succeed in my classes, and
explore my interests.



If I had not gone to [my]
afterschool program, I
wouldn't have met so
many amazing people
or had such amazing
and remarkable
opportunities. And I
definitely wouldn't have
made it to where I am
right now!



What critics have said...



“So, let’s talk about after-school programs generally. They’re supposed to be educational programs, right?... Guess what?...**There’s no demonstrable evidence they’re actually helping results, helping kids do better at school.**”



“The Budget eliminates funding for 29 discretionary programs that **do not address national needs, duplicate other programs, are ineffective, are poorly targeted, or are more appropriately supported by State, local, or private funds.**

These eliminations would decrease taxpayer costs by \$6.7 billion and include... 21st Century Community Learning Centers...”

What the research says



afterschool
WORKS!

Afterschool...

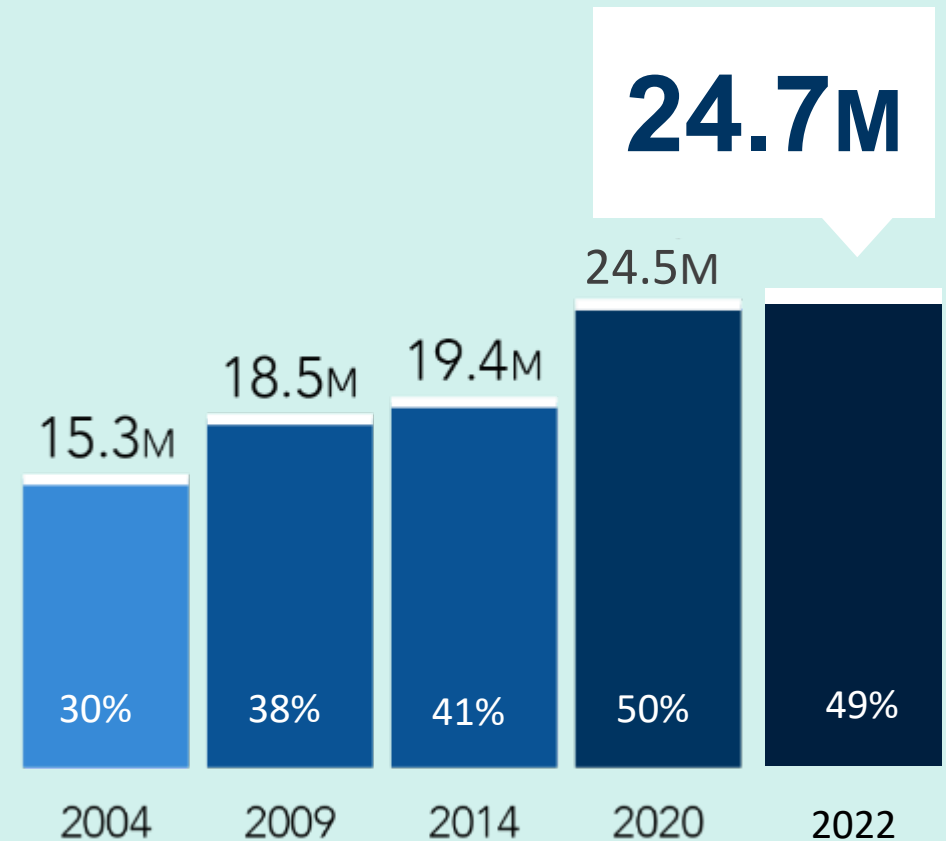
- ✓ **Inspires** students to learn
- ✓ **Improves** school day **attendance**
- ✓ Helps kids **learn and grow**
- ✓ **Supports working families** and **communities**
- ✓ Is a **smart investment**
- ✓ Has **strong public support**

**However, too many kids missing out.
Demand far exceeds supply.**

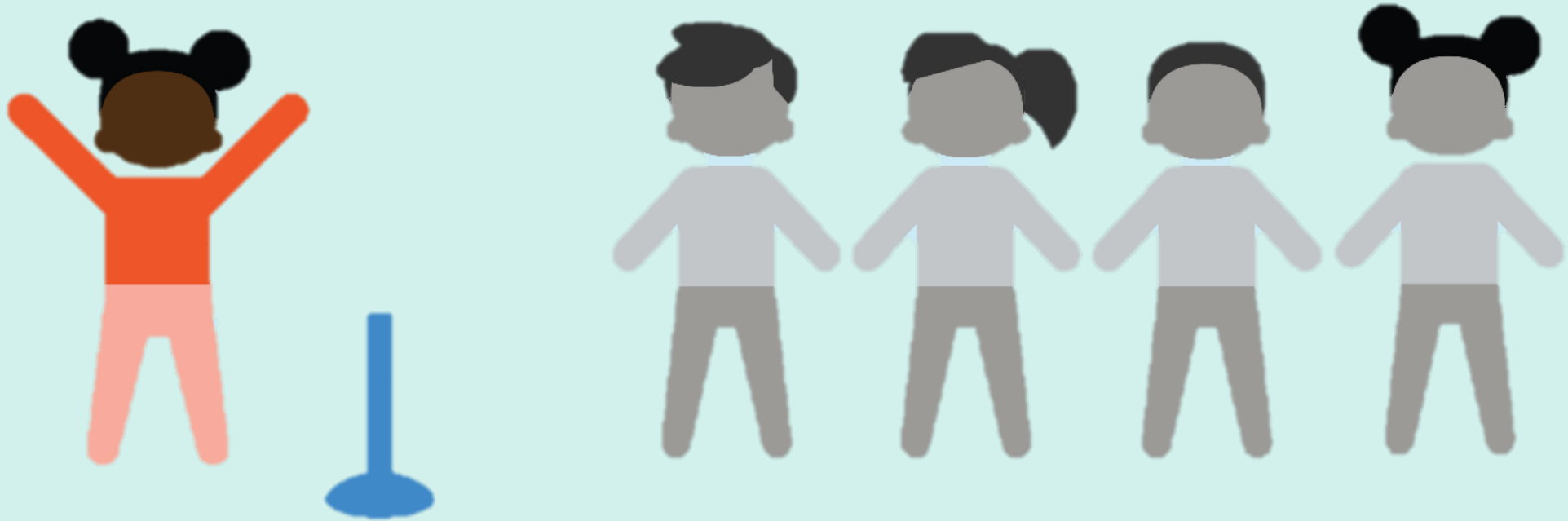
Unmet demand for afterschool has skyrocketed

Nearly 25 million children would enroll in an afterschool program, if one were available. Unmet demand for afterschool programs has consistently increased over nearly two decades.

In spring 2022, still 24.7 million children would be enrolled in an afterschool program if one were available.



For every child in afterschool, 4 are waiting



Cost and access top the list of roadblocks to afterschool program participation

● 2014 ● 2020 ● 2022



Programs are too expensive



Transportation issues, no safe way to and from program



Lack of available programs

43%

57%

57%

39%

53%

52%

29%

42%

44%

Kids from families with low-incomes are more likely to miss out



Parents reporting that at least 1 child participates in an out-of-school time activity.

Families in the highest income bracket spend **5x** more on out-of-school time activities each year than families in the lowest income bracket.

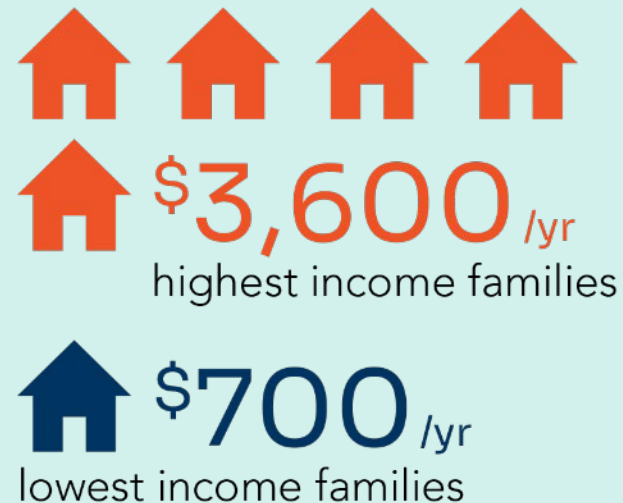




Photo credit: 50 Afterschool
Networks

Sampling of research to make the case

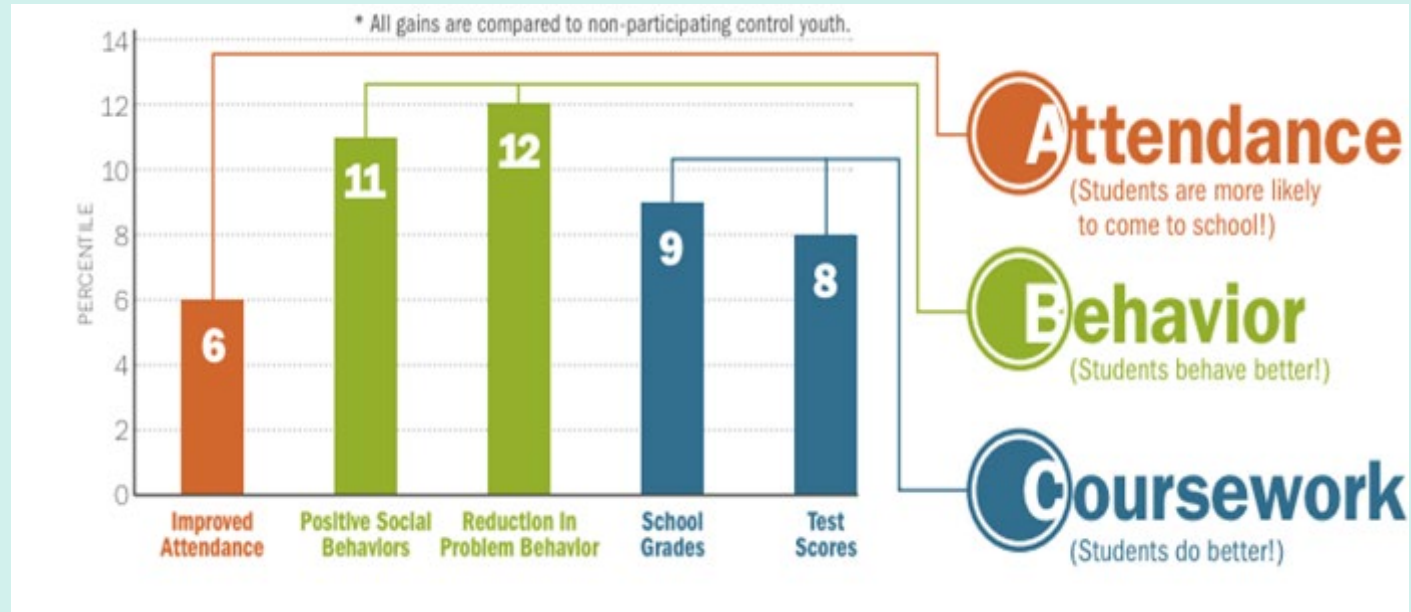


AFTERSCHOOL INSPIRES LEARNING



More than 8 in 10 students in Arkansas 21st CCLC programs report that they **like the activities they do in the program** (89%), get to **try new things they've never done before** (86%), and **take part in activities that make them think** (82%).

High-quality afterschool programs help
kids do better in school





AFTERSCHOOL IMPROVING SCHOOL-DAY ATTENDANCE



Nationally, **nearly 1 in 2 students** in 21st CCLC programs who had been chronically absent during the previous school year **improved their school day attendance**.

A RCT study found that high school students in Boston's Summer Youth Employment Program were **5.9 percentage points less likely to be chronically absent** than non-participants, and **unexcused absences decreased by 2.1 days**.



AFTERSCHOOL HELPING STUDENTS FEEL MORE CONNECTED TO THE SCHOOL DAY

A vast majority of high school students in Delaware's 21st CCLC programs said that they **feel more connected to their school because of the program** (83%), while parents agreed that since attending the program, their child has **become more interested in school** (89%).

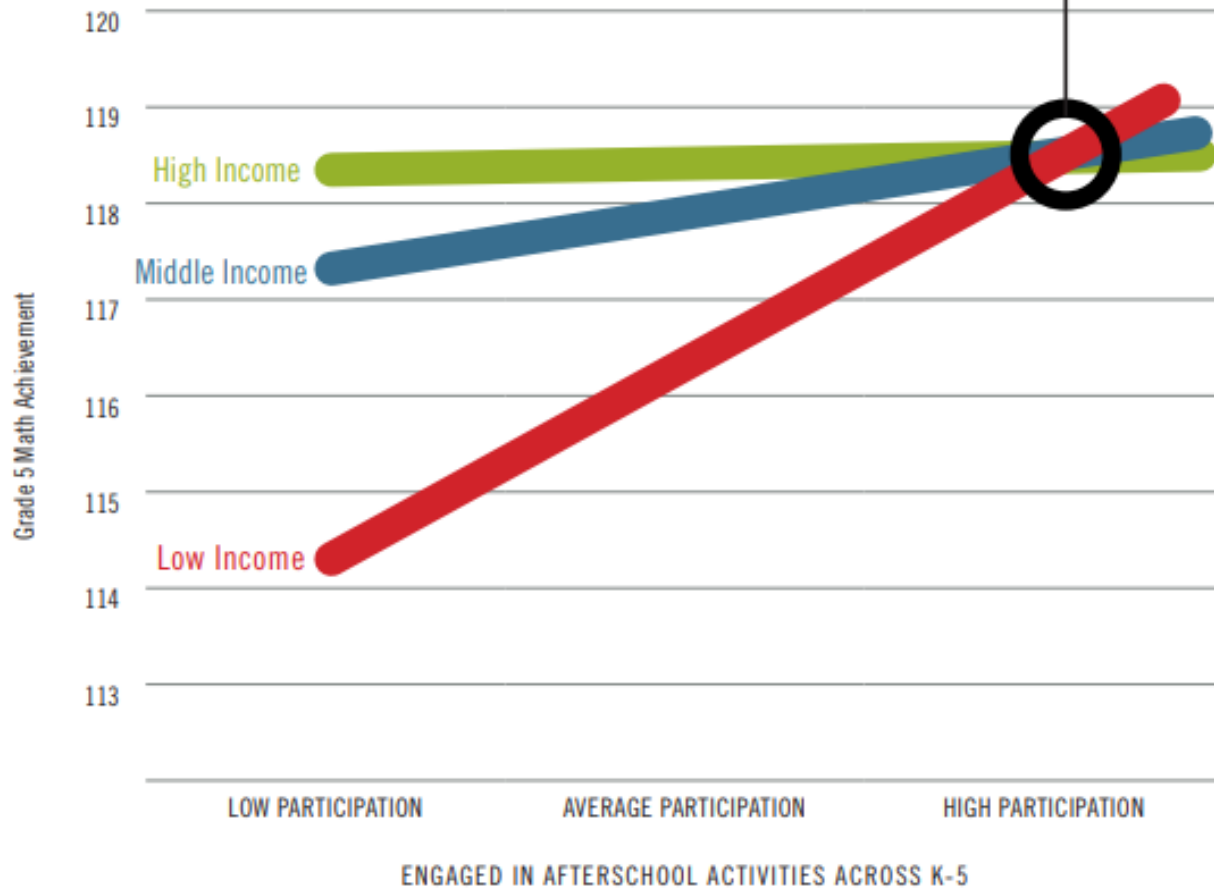


In a 2020 matched comparison study of the Girls Inc. program, researchers found that participants **were more engaged in school** and were **more likely to agree that subjects such as reading, math, and science were fun** than non-participants.

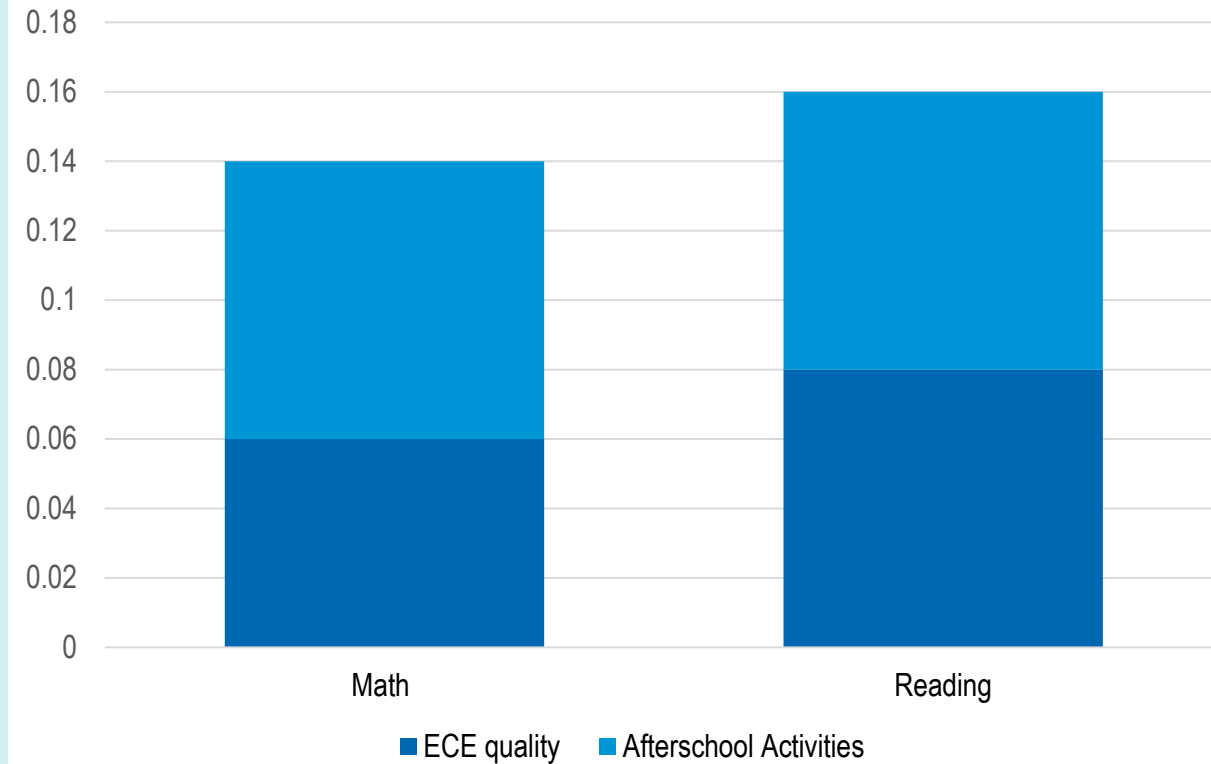


AFTERSCHOOL HELPS KIDS LEARN AND GROW

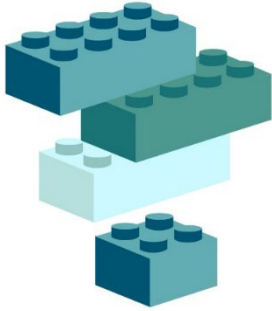
Income differences in math achievement were eliminated for students who had consistent afterschool activities across K-5



Achievement test scores associated with ECE quality and afterschool activities



Research has found that afterschool participation **helps to close the achievement gap** and that the effects of early childhood education and afterschool are **cumulative**, meaning a student who experiences both has **twice the benefits**.



AFTERSCHOOL HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOP FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS AND FEEL PREPARED FOR LIFE POST-HIGH SCHOOL

Evaluations of 21st CCLC programs serving older youth have found that programs are providing the supports young people need to feel ready for the steps after high school:

- Among middle and high school students in Montana's 21st CCLC program, **more than 9 in 10** reported that their program had helped them with **being responsible** (95%), **making good decisions** (94%), **working with others** (93%), and **handling problems** (92%).
- Among high school participants in Delaware's 21st CCLC programs, most said that their program helped them **learn skills that they can use later in life** (94%) and **prepare for college** (92%) and **career** (85%).
- **More than 7 in 10** regularly participating students in Virginia's 21st CCLC programs agreed that their program helped them **learn the knowledge and skills needed to be ready for a job or career** (76%) or **learn what is necessary to be prepared for trade school or college** (71%).



AFTERSCHOOL HELPING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

A 2022 Afterschool Alliance survey found that **85% of parents** agree that afterschool programs **help give working parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work**—up from 75% in 2014.

Parents with high levels of parental afterschool stress miss up to **8 unscheduled days of work** per year. Parental stress could **cost businesses up to \$300 billion annually**.



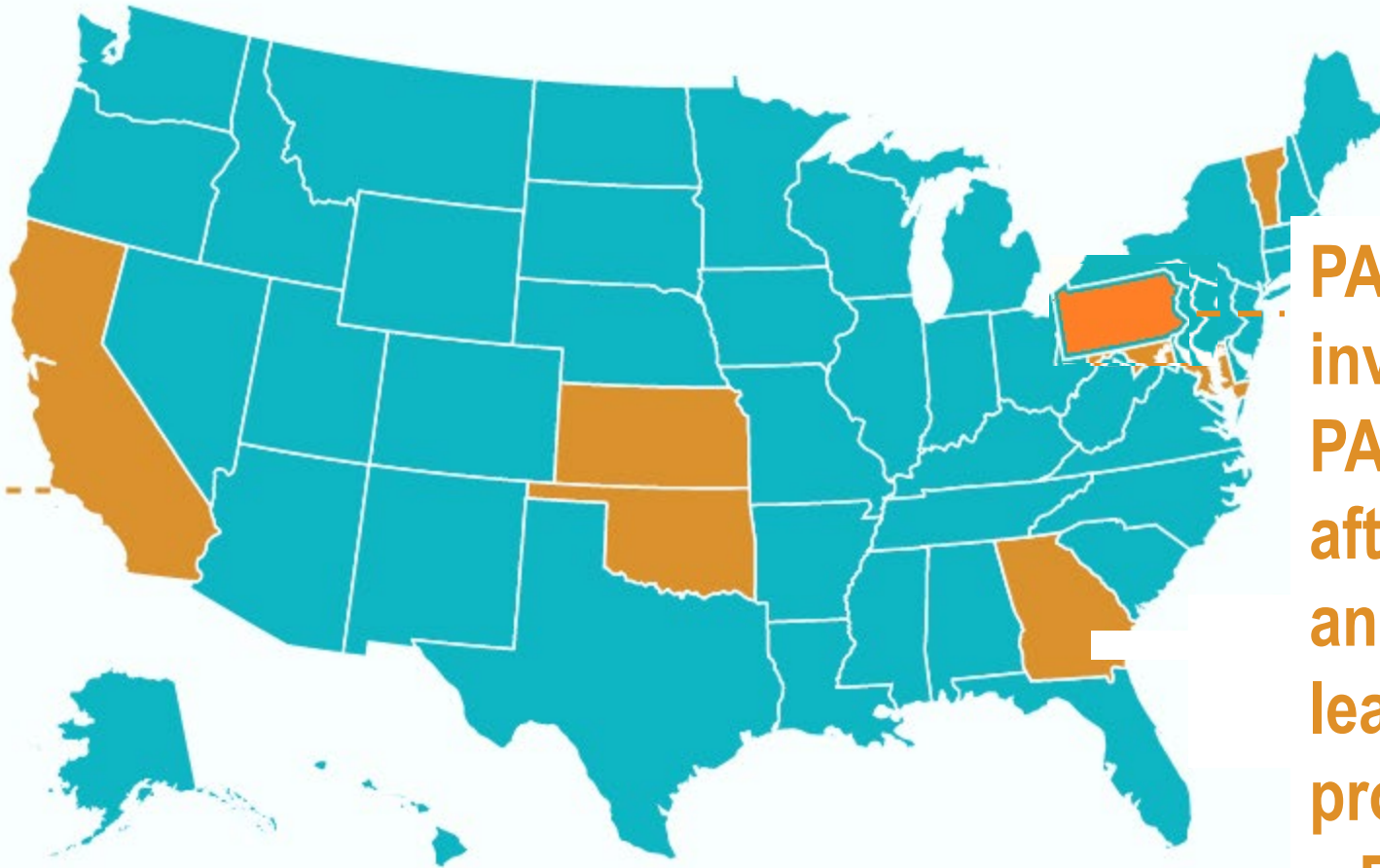
AFTERSCHOOL PROVIDING LASTING BENEFITS

A study in *Development and Psychopathology* found that students who reliably attended afterschool activities while in elementary school had **less impulsivity** and **less police contact at age 26**.

Another study by the same authors found that participating in similar activities in elementary school contributed to **better grades and a rigorous course load in high school**, resulting in **greater educational and occupational attainment in adulthood**.

Afterschool is a smart investment

CA: Every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by increasing kids' earning potential, improving kids' performance at school, and reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



PA: Every \$1 invested in PA's afterschool and summer learning programs has a ROI of \$6.69

Public support is high for afterschool programs

Voters want newly elected federal, state, and local leaders to provide more funding for afterschool programs.



Support is strong, regardless of political affiliation.



Democrats



Independents



Republicans

Resources helping to make the case for afterschool



This is Afterschool in New Mexico

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, Explora, a science center for all ages, received approximately \$100,000 in American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds from the New Mexico Public Education Department to facilitate STEAM-focused out-of-school time programs in partnership with local schools. Explora ran an afterschool program with elementary students from Don Community Charter School to work in their community garden and develop awareness of STEAM in local farming and gardening communities in and around Albuquerque. Students became aware of themselves as scientists, gardeners, and stewards of the land, as they learned new skills and met diverse people in Albuquerque who make their living in the fields of food, agriculture, and conservation of natural resources. Explora also partnered with the Albuquerque School of Excellence and Van Buren Middle School to run an afterschool program focused on 21st century skills in design, engineering, and innovation to inspire students to be artists, engineers, and builders, transforming everyday items into new and imaginative designs. Overall, Explora was able to increase the number of students they served by approximately 44% due to the additional ARP ESSER funds over the course of the past three years.

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many New Mexico youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In New Mexico, for every child in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate if a program were available. And a national fall 2023 survey of afterschool program providers found that nearly 3 in 4 are concerned about their program's long-term funding and future. Afterschool and summer programs across New Mexico are accelerating students' growth, supporting students' well-being, and helping working families. To keep their doors open, these programs need additional investments at the local, state, and federal levels.

IMPROVING SCHOOL-DAY ENGAGEMENT AND REDUCING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

A 2023 U.S. Department of Education report on 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)—local before-school, afterschool, and summer learning programs that serve more than 1.3 million students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools—found that:

- 7 IN 10** students in the program demonstrated an **IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN LEARNING**
- NEARLY HALF** of students who were **CHRONICALLY ABSENT** the previous year **IMPROVED THEIR SCHOOL-DAY ATTENDANCE**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ACCELERATE STUDENTS' ACADEMIC GROWTH AND SUPPORT THEIR WELL-BEING

New Mexico students in afterschool programs are:

- Getting homework help (65%)
- Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (64%)
- Working on their reading and writing skills (63%)
- Interacting with their peers and building social skills (88%)
- Taking part in physical activities (87%)
- Building confidence (85%)

92% of New Mexico parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program

Fact sheets for all 50 states, and D.C.:

<https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyStateMap.cfm>

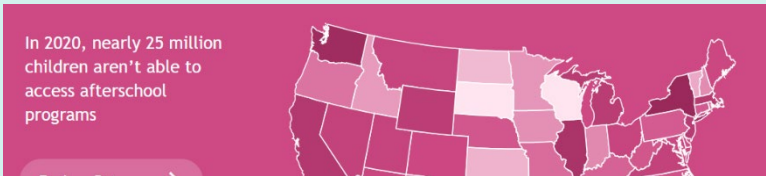
- Includes state-specific data, including afterschool program participation and unmet demand, opportunities provided by afterschool programs, and parental support for afterschool.

Afterschool Alliance research page:

<https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/research.cfm>

- Includes resources such as the briefs, “[The Latest Research on the Impact of Afterschool and Summer Programs](#)” and “[Recent Evaluations of 21st Century Community Learning Centers Illustrate Wide Range of Benefits.](#)”

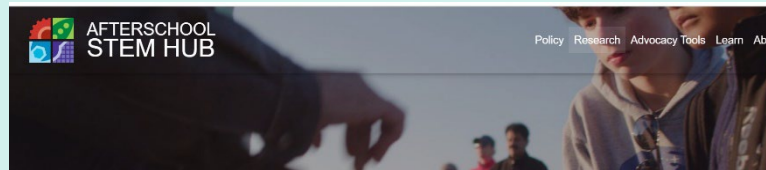
Where to find more



AMERICA AFTER 3PM

- National and state data on afterschool and summer program participation and demand
- Interactive dashboard, reports, fact sheets, infographics, and more

<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM>



STEM HUB

- Posts STEM publications related to afterschool
- Includes resources like the Afterschool STEM Quarterly Research Review and the Evidence Base for Investing in STEM

<https://www.afterschoolstemhub.org/research>



AFTERSCHOOL IMPACTS DATABASE

- Online searchable database of evaluations on afterschool and summer learning programs
- Can search by: population, grade level, state, outcome areas

<http://impacts.afterschoolalliance.org>

What to be on the lookout for

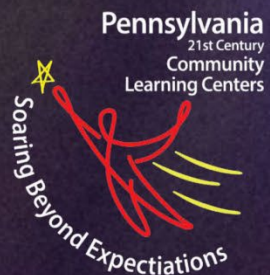
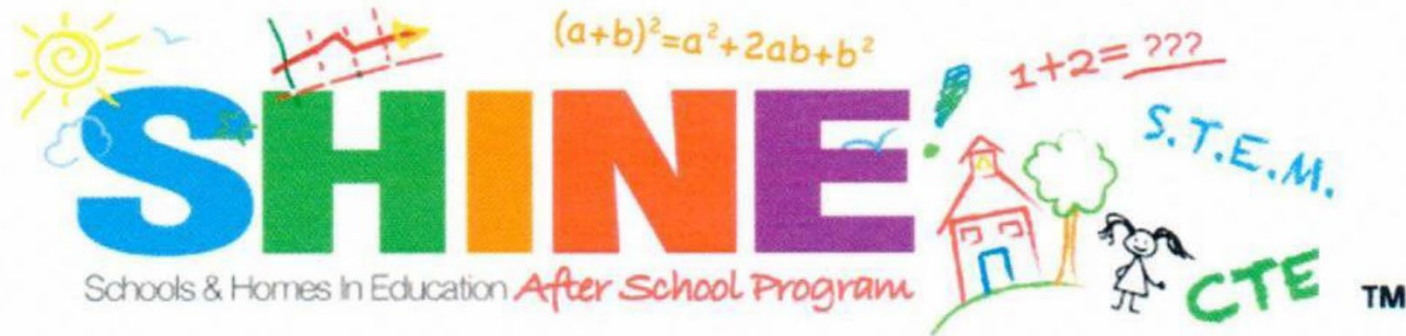
- Brief on afterschool and chronic absenteeism (January)
- Voter attitudes toward afterschool (late January)
- Findings from the Wave 11 program provider survey (late February/early March)
- Results from America After 3PM 2025 (Fall)



Showing What Works: Site Visits and Anecdotes



Afterschool Alliance



Lehigh Carbon
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

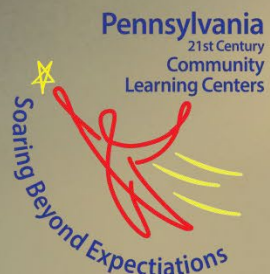
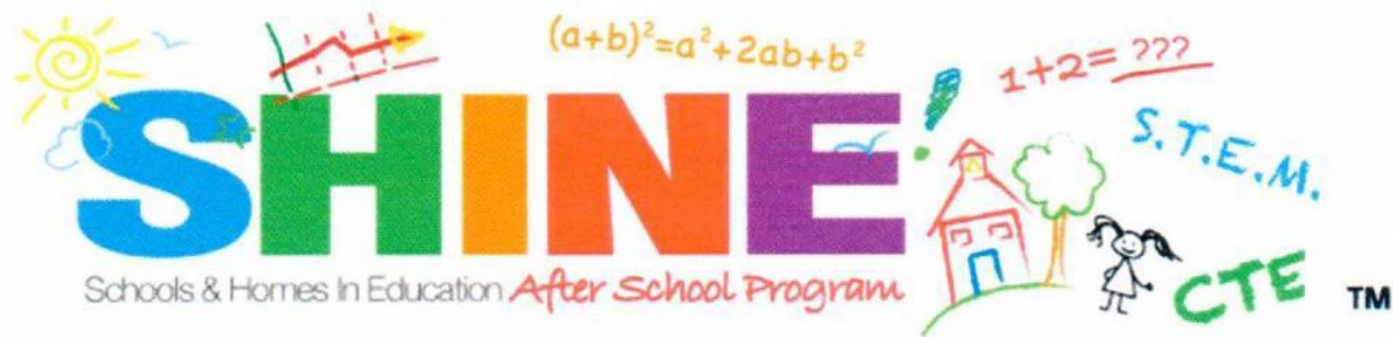
Building a Relationship with Legislators

- ▶ Take time to do research on your legislator and find out where their interests lie.
- ▶ How does your quality OST program fit with their interests.
- ▶ Do not be afraid to contact your legislator.
- ▶ You are the expert, let your passion **SHINE** through.
- ▶ If you're having an event and would like your legislator to attend, send your info way in advance.
- ▶ If you have a schedule for planned events for the year, make sure you send that list of events to the legislator at the beginning of the year, so that they have multiple opportunities to attend.
- ▶ Be relentless because OST programming changes lives.



Legislator Site Visit

- ▶ Once you have your event day scheduled, the location and time picked make sure you communicate that to the legislator scheduler.
- ▶ Meet with staff where the event is going to be held to go over what are the goals of the site visit.
- ▶ On the day of the visit depending on the time of arrival it might be necessary to rearrange the day so the person visiting can be involved in the project or activity you have planned.
- ▶ If possible have parents attend the visit, they are great advocates to show how important OST program really is to their family.
- ▶ Make sure you put together a packet for the legislator, so that when they leave they can reference the material inside.
- ▶ Don't be afraid to express to the legislator how important this program is to the students and the families.



Lehigh Carbon
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Funded in full or in part with a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Questions and Answers!



Afterschool Alliance

Federal Opportunities to Advance Afterschool



Bipartisan support for 21st Century Community Learning Centers - no proposed cuts to 21st CCLC in House nor Senate FY 2025 spending bills – advocacy needed to ensure that continues to be the case



Momentum for better access to federal Child Care funds for school-age and afterschool programs in both Republican and Democrat Child Care Development Fund legislation; possible opportunities as part of tax debate



Bipartisan, bicameral legislation around afterschool funding and national service that could get traction in 119th Congress