

Afterschool Programs are a Priority

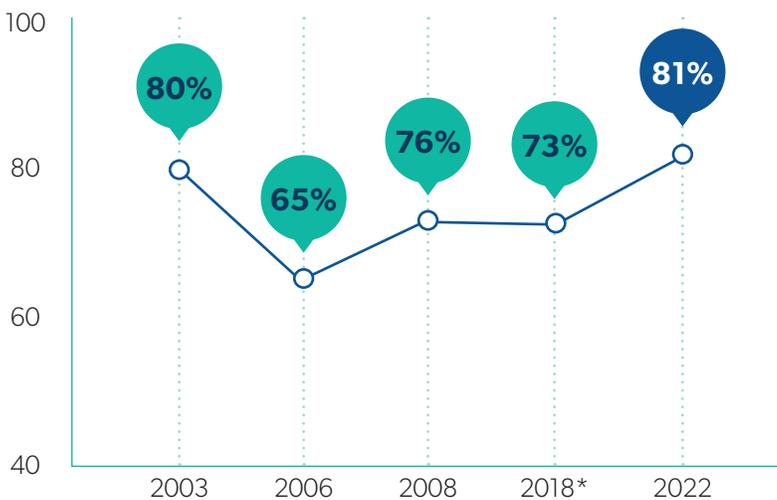
At a time when few issues generate widespread public support, voters are united in support of afterschool programs for young people. A new poll finds that voters nationwide, across all political affiliations, races, ethnicities, and ages, value afterschool programs and want more funding invested in these opportunities for children. The poll findings likely reflect key concerns in our country today: the economy and the well-being of young people. Afterschool programs help working families stay employed and inspire young people to learn and grow. Voters agree afterschool programs are needed now more than ever.¹



8 IN 10 VOTERS say that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity for their community.



That's **significantly higher** than most recent polling.²



*2018 is of likely voters

Similarly, **82% of voters** have a favorable opinion of afterschool programs, including:

86% of suburban women

88% of working parents

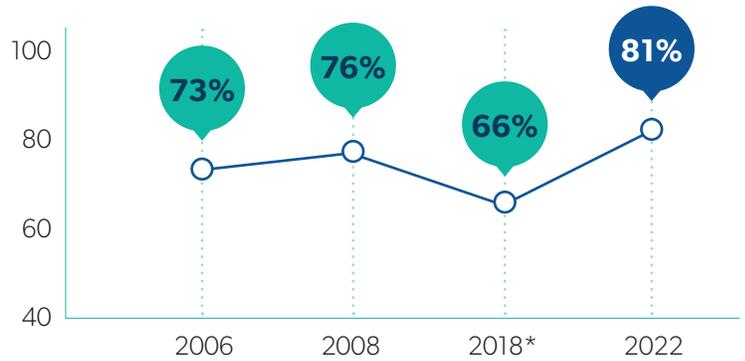
81% of voters 50 and over

8 IN 10 VOTERS want newly elected federal, state, and local leaders to provide more funding for afterschool programs.



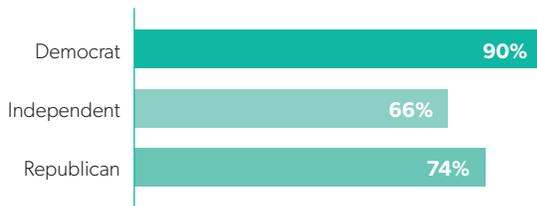
Support for funding for afterschool programs is at **an all-time high**, with voters across political affiliations, community types, racial and ethnic groups, and age groups in agreement that elected officials should invest more resources in programs.

YEARS

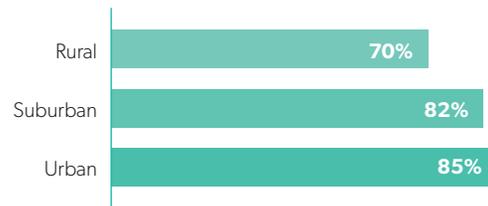


*2018 is of likely voters asked about afterschool and summer learning programs

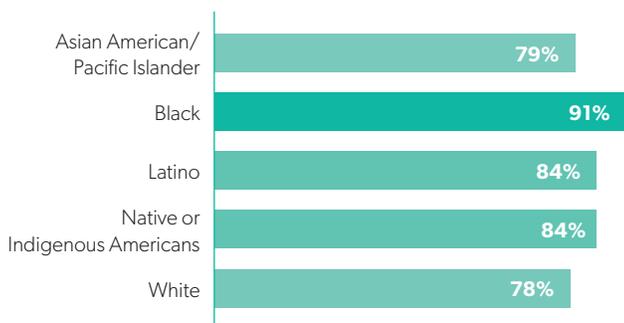
POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS



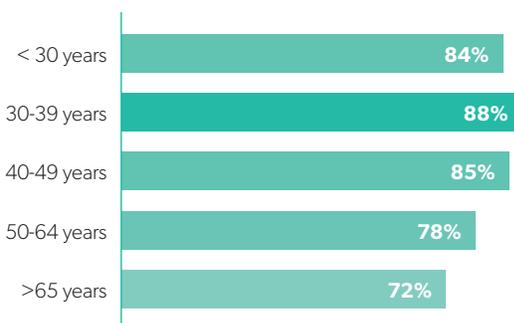
COMMUNITY TYPES



RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS



AGE GROUPS



67%
of voters who said "yes" to providing more funding are willing to do so **even if it means that they would pay more in taxes.**

MORE THAN 3 IN 4 VOTERS agree that **local governments and schools** should invest some of their COVID-relief funds into afterschool and summer programs.



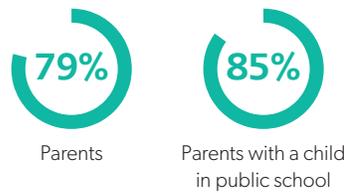
REGIONS



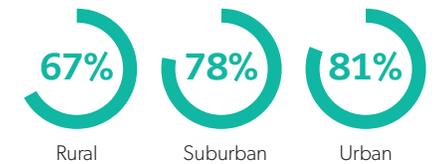
POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS



PARENTS



COMMUNITY TYPES



Additionally, **78% of voters** agree that expanding access to afterschool and summer programs is an important priority.

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS



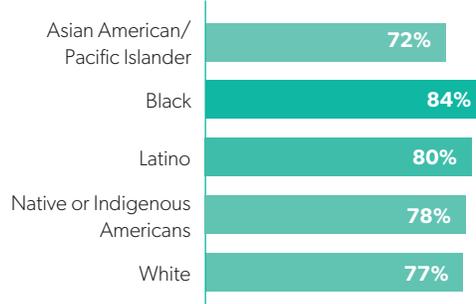
AGE GROUPS



PARENTS



RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS



A new federal education initiative called “**Engage Every Student**” urges school districts to work with community partners to create new or expand existing afterschool programs so that all kids who want a program can attend. Do you agree or disagree that expanding access to afterschool and summer programs should be an important priority?

What Voters See in Afterschool: Opportunities for Kids to Thrive

Voters see afterschool programs as providing opportunities for kids to reach their full potential and keep kids safe and supported. An overwhelming majority of voters say that programs provide parents peace of mind, support children’s learning and well-being, and help build foundational work and life skills like teamwork and communication.



Percentage of voters who **agree** that afterschool programs:

STRONGLY AGREE **AGREE**



Provide parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe and supervised



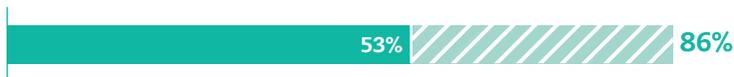
Help young people catch up academically and socially from the impacts of the pandemic



Inspire children to learn by giving them engaging hands-on and fun projects, opportunities to express themselves creatively, and connecting them with caring adults



Support young people’s social and emotional well-being by helping them develop confidence, communicate and build connections with others, and work in a team



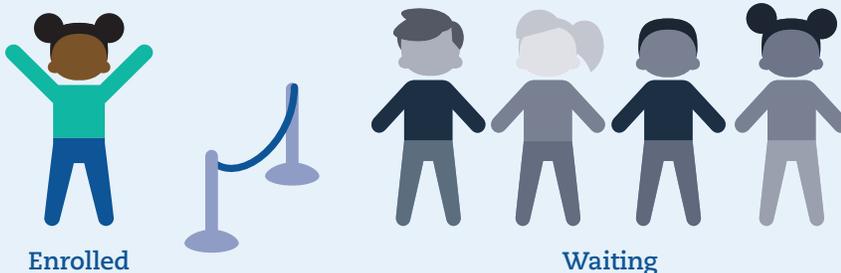
Help young people gain foundational skills, like teamwork and communication, that prepare them for the jobs of the future



Keep young people safe from crime and violence, as well as help them avoid drug and alcohol use and abuse

Above uses a 10-point scale; responses scoring a 9-10 are classified as “strongly agree,” and those responding between 6-10 are categorized under total agreement.

Voters’ support for increased investment in afterschool programs comes at a critical time for both young people and programs. For every **ONE CHILD** in an afterschool program, there are **FOUR MORE** who are waiting to get in.³

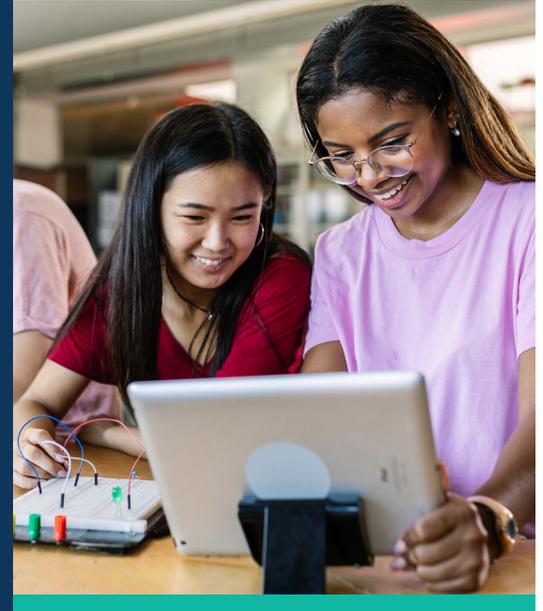


A survey of afterschool program providers during the 2022-23 school year found that a majority (53%) report having a waitlist.⁴ As afterschool programs struggle to meet demand, results from this poll demonstrate voters want more funding invested in afterschool so that every child can access programs that help them learn and grow, connect them with caring adults, and provide the supports for reaching their full potential.

AFTERSCHOOL IN ACTION

Meeting Kids Needs, Delivering What Parents Want

Across the country, afterschool programs are helping young people reach their full potential. Afterschool programs are inspiring learning, helping kids catch up both academically and socially from the impacts of the pandemic, and providing a safe space where young people connect with their peers and have the support of staff and mentors. Todos Juntos, located in Clackamas County, Oregon, is embedded within nine schools, where each program site provides homework help, sports programming, and student councils to provide a space for students to talk about well-being, with topics including how to build a positive self-image and how to manage challenges they face in their daily lives. Additional programming, offered at various sites, includes one-on-one mentorship to help students navigate high school and graduate on time, LEGO robotics, career exploration, drug prevention classes, and leadership classes. During the 2018-19 school year, more than **9 IN 10 STUDENTS** reported that participating in the program increased their connection to and enthusiasm for school and the community. On the other coast in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, high school students in the Riverzedge Arts afterschool program are paid to work on real-world, client-led projects while also earning school credit. For example, students in the program worked with the Rhode Island School of Design to create a project focused on artificial intelligence and animation. A 2020 program report by Riverzedge Arts reported that **100 PERCENT OF STUDENTS** in the program graduated from high school or attained their GED, and a majority of youth said that they felt more prepared for life after high school and are able to communicate more honestly and openly.



Endnotes

- ¹ The online survey was conducted by Lake Research Partners between November 9-14, 2022, reaching 1,400 registered voters, including oversamples of Black, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and Native and Indigenous American registered voters. The margin of error is +/- 3.1%.
- ² Survey results for 2003, 2006, 2008, and 2018 were conducted by Lake Research Partners, with bipartisan analysis by Lake Research Partners and The Tarrance Group.
- ³ Afterschool Alliance. (2022). Access to Afterschool Programs Remains a Challenge for Many Families. Retrieved from: <http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Afterschool-COVID-19-Parent-Survey-2022-Brief.pdf>
- ⁴ Edge Research conducted an online survey of 1,016 afterschool and summer program providers on behalf of the Afterschool Alliance between October 24-November 30, 2022.