

# Expanding learning and supports for an equitable recovery

## This is Afterschool in North Carolina



 Afterschool Alliance April 2021

In North Carolina, afterschool programs provide expanded learning opportunities to 192,548 students and are a lifeline for working families. In North Carolina, 85% of parents report that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. Yet, too many kids in North Carolina are being left out. In fact, **for every child in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate** if a program were available.

### Helping young people learn, grow, and thrive

#### Students in afterschool programs in North Carolina are:

-  Interacting with peers and building social skills **90%**
-  Getting homework help **72%**
-  Taking part in physical activities **87%**

A 2020 evaluation of North Carolina's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs by the SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro found that, based on teacher surveys, an overwhelming majority of regularly attending participants improved their homework completion and class participation (87%) and student behavior (75%). Additionally, although regular 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC attendees improved their score on the state's end-of-grade reading test from the end of the 2017-18 school year to the end of the 2018-19 year at the same rate as students across the state, for math, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC students improved at a slightly greater rate compared to students across the state.

#### Parents in North Carolina agree that afterschool programs:

-  Provide opportunities to build life skills **81%**
-  Get kids excited about learning **74%**
-  Reduce the likelihood that youth will use drugs or engage in other risky behaviors **74%**

### Call and response: Afterschool programs stepping up during the pandemic

From the outset of the pandemic, afterschool programs have adapted and expanded their services to best meet the needs of the children and families they serve. In Charlotte, ourBRIDGE for KIDS serves K-8 students from low-income families, representing 22 different cultures. Most are English language learners. ourBRIDGE staff distributed tens of thousands of meals and served as a liaison between schools and families, checking in with students who were missing during online school sessions and translating materials for parents. YMCA of Western North Carolina expanded its child care program, including its operating hours, to better support schools' and working families' schedules.

#### A 2021 national survey of afterschool providers finds programs continue to provide:

Academic enrichment	<b>94%</b>
Time to interact with peers	<b>86%</b>
Physical activity	<b>81%</b>
Snacks or meals	<b>77%</b>
Check-ins with student and families	<b>32%</b>
In-person services during virtual school days*	<b>24%</b>

Looking toward the summer, **79%** of providers will be offering summer programming.

*\*Among program providers that report that they are offering in-person services.*

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

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) are local before-school, afterschool, and summer learning programs that serve students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools, engaging students in hands-on learning activities aimed at supporting their academic growth. They provide a variety of enrichment activities to complement school-day learning and offer educational and support services to the families of participating children.

In North Carolina, 15,629 children in 211 communities take part in a Community Learning Center.

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grants are the only dedicated federal funding source that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programs is so great in North Carolina that **7** out of every **10** applications cannot be funded.

The 2020 Department of Education annual performance report of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC found that among regular participants:



Nearly half improved their math (**48%**) and English grades (**48%**)



**69%** improved homework completion and class participation



**62%** improved their behavior

## A lifeline for working families

A national survey of parents in the fall of 2020 found that as the pandemic continued to disrupt school schedules, most parents were concerned about their child's social and emotional well-being and connection to peers, as well as their own ability to continue to provide learning support and/or care for their child as virtual school and distance learning extends into 2021.

**Based on the 2020 America After 3PM household survey, parents in North Carolina agree that afterschool programs:**

- Build positive relationships between children and adults **78%**
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble **75%**
- Help working parents keep their jobs **85%**
- Provide working parents peace of mind **82%**

## A smart investment

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



- 1** Increasing kids' earning potential
- 2** Improving kids' performance at school
- 3** Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

Additionally, Community Learning Centers leverage diverse partners to meet community needs. A typical program receives \$67,000 from partners to supplement its federal funding. Nationwide, partner contributions totaled more than \$1 billion between 2006 and 2010.

## Parents in North Carolina are behind public investment in afterschool programs

**89%** of parents favor public funding of afterschool programs to expand opportunities for kids in underserved communities.



## Support is strong and bipartisan



**91%** Democrats



**89%** Independents



**88%** Republicans