

# Expanding learning and supports for an equitable recovery

## This is Afterschool in New Hampshire



Afterschool Alliance April 2021

In New Hampshire, afterschool programs provide expanded learning opportunities to 27,141 students and are a lifeline for working families. In New Hampshire, 90% of parents report that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. Yet, too many kids in New Hampshire are being left out. In fact, **for every child in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.**

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

#### Students in afterschool programs in New Hampshire are:

-  Interacting with peers and building social skills **98%**
-  Getting homework help **59%**
-  Taking part in physical activities **87%**

In a Policy Studies Associates, Inc. evaluation of New Hampshire's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs, teachers reported that 64% of student participants were more successful finishing their homework and 60% increased their class participation. In a 2017 Plymouth State University statewide evaluation, more than 8 in 10 principals agreed that 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs enhanced students' social skills and motivation to learn and helped improve student math and literacy skills.

#### Parents in New Hampshire agree that afterschool programs:

-  Provide opportunities to build life skills **82%**
-  Get kids excited about learning **71%**
-  Reduce the likelihood that youth will use drugs or engage in other risky behaviors **75%**

### 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. The YMCA of Greater Nashua began providing child care and summer camp programs to children in March 2020. They launched the Y Educational Academy for students to attend virtual school and get help with their school work. They partnered with BellXcel to provide in-person curriculum using LitArt. Each day during the Brain Power Hour, YMCA staff lead students in fun, grade-appropriate educational activities in math, literacy, and writing.

#### 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 New Hampshire, 9,888 children in 65 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 New Hampshire that **3** 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 New Hampshire agree that afterschool programs:**

- Build positive relationships between children and adults **79%**
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble **78%**
- Help working parents keep their jobs **89%**
- Provide working parents peace of mind **90%**

## 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 New Hampshire are behind public investment in afterschool programs

**86%** of parents favor public funding of afterschool programs to expand opportunities for kids in underserved communities.



## Support is strong and bipartisan



**95%** Democrats



**88%** Independents



**75%** Republicans