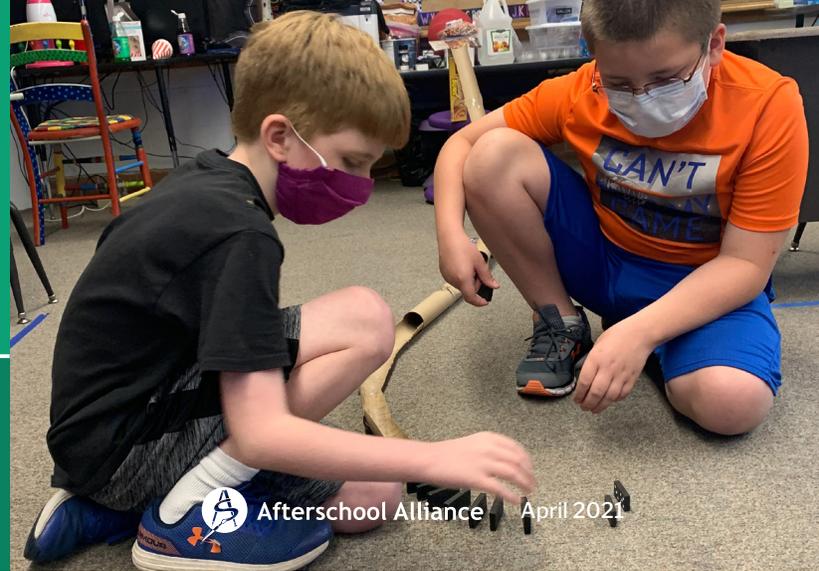


# Expanding learning and supports for an equitable recovery

## This is Afterschool in Vermont



Afterschool Alliance April 2021

In Vermont, afterschool programs provide expanded learning opportunities to 19,092 students and are a lifeline for working families. In Vermont, 83% of parents report that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. Yet, too many kids in Vermont are being left out. In fact, **for every child in an afterschool program, 1 more would participate** if a program were available.

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

#### Students in afterschool programs in Vermont are:

-  Interacting with peers and building social skills **90%**
-  Getting homework help **66%**
-  Taking part in physical activities **88%**

A 2019 evaluation of Vermont's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs by the Vermont Agency of Education found that students participating in programs reported a positive experience. When asked their feelings about the programs, 7 in 10 students reported that they feel like they belong (70%) and that they matter (69%) in the program. More than half of students responded that in the program they feel challenged in a good way (52%) and that the activities are important to them (51%). A 2020 evaluation found that programs were providing holistic supports to students, where most program sites offered a strategy outside of homework help for students struggling academically (81%); provided time for physical activity (97%); and scored a 4 or higher (92%) on a 5-point Nourishment scale, indicating that items such as healthy food and drinks are available in the program.

#### Parents in Vermont agree that afterschool programs:

-  Provide opportunities to build life skills **77%**
-  Get kids excited about learning **69%**
-  Reduce the likelihood that youth will use drugs or engage in other risky behaviors **65%**

### 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. Mount Abraham Unified School District Expanded Learning Program provided school-age child care for the children of essential workers and has continued to serve children and youth by providing safe, high-quality, in-person afterschool and summer learning programs. In Elkhart, Indiana, the Elkhart Boys & Girls Club pivoted to hosting the BGC Academy, an academic focused program with support for virtual learning. The program serves students in-person through morning and afternoon sessions that include STEM activities, arts, music lessons, gardening, and homework help.

#### 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 Vermont, 12,289 children in 102 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 Vermont that **1** out of every **3** 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 Vermont agree that afterschool programs:**

- Build positive relationships between children and adults **79%**
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble **77%**
- Help working parents keep their jobs **81%**
- 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 Vermont 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



**94%** Democrats



**90%** Independents



**83%** Republicans