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Large Majority of U.S. Voters Support Greater Investment in Afterschool Programs

Voters See Afterschool Programs as a Necessity, and Important for COVID Recovery

WASHINGTON, DC – Support for afterschool programs among voters in the United States is deep, broad, and enduring. More than eight in ten voters (81%) say these programs are “an absolute necessity” for their communities, and the same number want newly elected leaders at the local, state, and federal levels to provide more funding for them.

That is according to an [online survey of 1,400 registered voters](#), conducted by Lake Research Partners for the Afterschool Alliance in November of 2022. It also finds that more than three in four voters (78%) agree that expanding access to afterschool and summer programs is an important priority. Support for afterschool is strong across all demographic groups, all regions, and all political party affiliations.

“Our new survey makes very clear that voters all across this country recognize the enormous benefits afterschool programs offer to children and youth, and want every child to be able to access a high-quality program,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “Unfortunately, we are far from that today. Some [24.7 million U.S. children](#) not in an afterschool program would be enrolled, if a program were available to them, and unmet demand is significantly higher among Latino and Black children. Voters want that to change. They recognize that all our kids need the afterschool and summer learning programs that keep them safe, inspire them to learn, and provide working parents with peace of mind. They want lawmakers at all levels to prioritize funding for these programs.”

Other findings from the new voter survey:

- The 81% of voters who want newly elected federal, state, and local leaders to provide more funding for afterschool programs is the largest response to that question since the Afterschool Alliance began asking it in 2006. Seventy-four percent of Republican voters, 66% of Independents, and 90% of Democrats want leaders to provide more funds, as do 70% of rural, 82% of suburban, and 85% of urban voters. Support is strong across voters of all races and in all age groups as well.
- Two-thirds of voters who want more funding for afterschool programs (67%) support the additional funding even if it means that they would pay more in taxes.
- Eighty-one percent of voters saying that afterschool programs are “an absolute necessity” is the most agreement with that statement since the Afterschool Alliance began asking the question in 2003. The lowest level of agreement was 65% in 2006.

- Eighty-two percent of voters report having a favorable opinion of afterschool programs, including 86% of suburban women, 88% of working parents, and 81% of voters age 50 or over.
- More than three in four voters say it is a good idea for local governments (78%) and schools (76%) to invest COVID relief funds in afterschool and summer programs.
- More than 80% of voters agree, and more than half strongly agree, that afterschool programs provide parents peace of mind, inspire children to learn, help young people gain foundational skills, help young people catch up academically and socially from the pandemic, support their social and emotional well-being, and keep them safe from crime and violence.

The online survey of 1,400 U.S. registered voters was conducted by Lake Research Partners from November 9 – November 14, 2022. It included oversamples of Black, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and Native and Indigenous registered voters. Its margin of error is +/- 3.1%.

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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.