Afterschool Alliance

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

The Afterschool Hours in America

- More than 14 million school age children (25 percent) are on their own after school. Among them are more than 40,000 kindergarteners. (Afterschool Alliance, 2004)

- The parents of more than 28 million school-age children work outside the home. (U.S. Department of Labor, 1998)

- Only 6.5 million K-12 children (11 percent) participate in afterschool programs. An additional 15 million would participate if a quality program were available in their community. (Afterschool Alliance, 2004)

- The hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. are the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex. (Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2002)

- Nine in 10 Americans want all children and teens to have some type of organized activity or safe place to go after school. (Afterschool Alliance & Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates Inc., 2008)

- Three in four voters (76 percent) say newly elected officials in Congress, as well as new state and local leaders, should increase funding for afterschool programs. Fewer than one in five voters disagree that this funding should be increased. (Afterschool Alliance & Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates, Inc., 2008)

Afterschool Programs Benefit Youth, Families & Communities

- Teens who do not participate in afterschool programs are nearly three times more likely to skip classes than teens who do participate. They are also three times more likely to use marijuana or other drugs, and are more likely to drink, smoke and engage in sexual activity. (YMCA of the USA, March 2001)

- Parents in New York City said that their child's afterschool program helped them balance work and family life; 60 percent said they missed less work than before because of the program and 59 percent said it supported them in keeping their jobs. (Policy Studies Associates, 2004)

- An analysis of 73 afterschool studies concluded that afterschool programs using evidence-based approaches were consistently successful in producing multiple benefits for youth, including improvements in children's personal, social and academic skills, as well as their self-esteem. (The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, 2007)

- Children in LA's BEST afterschool program attend school more often and report higher aspirations for finishing school and going to college. LA's BEST participants are 20 percent less likely to drop out and are 30 percent less likely to participate in criminal activities. Researchers estimate that every dollar invested in the LA's BEST program saves the city $2.50 in crime-related costs. (UCLA National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing, June 2000, December 2005 and September 2007)

- Boys and girls in the Quantum Opportunities afterschool program were half as likely to drop out of high school and two and one half times more likely to go on to further education after high school than their peers. (Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2000)

- Parents miss an average of eight days of work per year due to a lack of afterschool care. Decreased worker productivity related to parental concerns about after school care costs businesses up to $300 billion per year. (Community, Families and Work Program at Brandeis University, 2004; Catalyst & Brandeis University, December 2006)

- Students in programs supported by The After-School Corporation improved their math scores and regular school day attendance compared to non-participants. High school participants passed more Regents exams and earned more high school credits than non-participants. (Policy Studies Associates, July 2004)

- Participants in Citizen Schools' afterschool programs are much more likely to go on to high-quality high schools compared to non-participants (65 percent vs. 26 percent). Those who attend often are also more likely to be promoted to tenth grade on time (92 percent vs. 81 percent). Earning promotion to tenth grade on time is a key predictor of high school graduation. (Policy Studies Associates, December 2006)

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