



## Chicago After 3PM

Parents in Chicago show overwhelming support for afterschool and summer learning programs. More than nine in ten Chicago parents support funding for afterschool (91%) and summer learning programs (95%). Similarly, 93 percent of parents in Chicago agree that kids need a place to go each day with opportunities to learn after school. Thanks in part to a strong state afterschool network in Illinois, Chicago has an impressive percentage of its children enrolled in afterschool (27%) and summer learning programs (36%). With more than 122,000 children in afterschool programs and more than 163,000 children in summer learning programs in Chicago, the city appears to be a stronghold of after school and summer enrichment. Chicago’s high afterschool and summer learning participation numbers, however, are tempered by a very high percentage of children in self care. More than 131,000 children in Chicago (29%) participate in self care (compared to 26% nationally).

	National %	Illinois %	Chicago %	Estimated Number of Kids*
<b>Percentage of Kids in Afterschool Programs</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>122,610</b>
<b>Percentage of Kids in Self Care</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>131,692</b>
<b>Percentage of Kids in Sibling Care</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>118,069</b>
<b>Percentage of Kids in Summer Learning Programs</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>163,480</b>
<b>Percentage of Parents that Support Public Funding for Afterschool Programs</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>91</b>	
<b>Percentage of Parents that Agree that There Should be Some Type of Place For Kids to Go After School Every Day That Provides Opportunities for Them to Learn</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>93</b>	
<b>Percentage of Parents that Support Public Funding for Summer Learning Programs</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>95</b>	

There is certainly work to be done in Chicago to ensure that more of the children in self care have opportunities to enroll in safe and enriching afterschool programs. But Chicago has many effective elements in place to reduce that self care percentage and increase the number of afterschool participants. In partnership with the city of Chicago, After School Matters offers more than 20,000 Chicago high school teens innovative afterschool activities through its clubs, apprenticeships and internships programming. Another major afterschool effort in Chicago is Teen REACH, Illinois’ state funded afterschool program, which provides city wide programs with \$6.9 million in funding. Teen REACH programs are currently serving more than 5,000 youth in Chicago.

Additionally, in a grant spanning from 2006 through 2012, the Wallace Foundation awarded Chicago \$11 million to build system supports for afterschool under an initiative called the Chicago Out-of-School Time Project. The project is a partnership of Chicago Public Schools, After School Matters, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services and its more than 200 community based partners, as well as the Chicago Park District and Chicago Public Library. Collectively, the partners invest more than \$100 million each year.

Since 2006, the partners have succeeded in establishing three major “pillars” that build towards the vision of highly effective afterschool systems in the state and city:

- A **citywide afterschool program and participant data system** (Cityspan) that now links cross-agency information about programs and participants including more than 200,000 youth, 1,000 program sites and more than 28,000 different activities at any one time. This system, the most comprehensive of its kind, also links afterschool program data to school-day academic data and makes program information accessible to the public via *AfterschoolChicago.org*;
- A **baseline of common standards and measures for program quality, (Program Improvement Initiative)** across the range of programs funded by the Chicago Out-of-School Time Project partners. Program and professional development supports are also included to improve program quality in a variety of program settings, models and target populations<sup>1</sup>;
- The drafting and passing of the **Illinois Afterschool Youth Development Project Act** (State Senate Bill 3543) through the project-funded statewide campaign: Afterschool for Children and Teens Now (ACTNow). The Act will, for the first time, support access to afterschool programs as state policy and eventually creates a transparent, sustainable, replicable and responsive afterschool system with greater accountability and universal metrics by which to judge impact.

Private foundation and corporate grants are also significant sources of funding for afterschool providers in Chicago, especially for teen programming where traditionally there is less public funding. After School Matters is a prime example. Mrs. Daley, Co-Chair of the Chicago Out-of-School Time Project, and Chair of After School Matters is also the Chair of the ACTNow campaign and has been the city and state’s most notable champion of afterschool programming for more than 15 years.

It is through the work of the Chicago OST Project that the city was able to see the diverse “landscape” of afterschool participation in real-time using the Cityspan program and participant tracking system. In 2009, there were 216,238 youth tracked in the citywide system – a figure substantially higher than the estimated 122,610 participating youth reported here. This is likely due to the fact that the *America After 3PM* survey and the real-time attendance data of the OST Project operationally define “afterschool participation” differently. The OST Project partners include an array of structured afterschool activities offered to 6 – 19 year-olds, including sports, internships, apprenticeships and other activities not explicitly included in the definition given to parents responding to *America After 3PM*. There are more than 28,000 activities listed at any one time on the OST Project’s *AfterschoolChicago.org* website. Despite the reach of the City’s programming by this measure, the OST Project maintains that many more youth could be benefiting from quality programs if additional funding were available. This finding also underscores the value Chicago has realized by creating a reliable and timely citywide data system.

*In Chicago, 115 households were surveyed for this study. Among those households, 51 percent qualified for free or reduced price lunch, 25 percent were Hispanic and 39 percent were African-American. \*According to U.S. Census data from 2008, the total school-age population in Chicago is 454,110, which is the foundation for all citywide projections in Chicago. The margin of error for Chicago is +/- 6 percent. America After 3PM was designed to be national in scope; therefore, while the data are reliable at the city level, it is important to note that the demographics of the Chicago sample may not be reflective of the overall population of Chicago city proper.*

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<sup>1</sup> A custom, standardized common measurement tool, the Chicago Youth Program Quality Assessment (C-YPQA) provides the “common language” and frame for this work.