



Dallas After 3PM

While Dallas has 30 percent of children enrolled in summer learning programs, there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that more children have access to afterschool and summer learning programs in the city. Parents in Dallas show strong support for increased funding for afterschool programs (82%) and many agree that there should be a place for kids to go after school each day to learn (87%). However, only 30,000 children in Dallas (14 percent) are enrolled in an afterschool program, while more than 58,000 children (27%) care for themselves after school during any given week. Dallas has significant room for improvement in its ability to provide after school care to more of its children and parents.

	National %	Texas %	Dallas %	Estimated Number of Kids*
Percentage of Kids in Afterschool Programs	15	15	14	30,427
Percentage of Kids in Self Care	26	26	27	58,680
Percentage of Kids in Sibling Care	14	15	12	26,080
Percentage of Kids in Summer Learning Programs	25	24	30	65,200
Percentage of Parents that Support Public Funding for Afterschool Programs	83	84	82	
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	91	89	87	
Percentage of Parents that Support Public Funding for Summer Learning Programs	83	84	80	

The Dallas AfterSchool Network (DASN), formed in 2007, is leading the charge to help working families by advancing the quality and availability of afterschool and summer programs in the Dallas community. They do this by providing quality improvement tools, professional development, in-kind resources and networking opportunities for afterschool providers. DASN also helps parents find afterschool programs that meet their criteria. The network was formed in response to a study indicating the need for an umbrella organization to pull together afterschool programs that would otherwise operate independently. DASN is funded by local foundations and individual donors who recognize the value DASN provides by leveraging and securing resources. Unlike intermediaries in other cities, no public funds support DASN.

The Dallas Independent School District (DISD) has a long history of supporting enrichment efforts during the after school hours. Since 2007, the Thriving Minds program, funded partially by the city of Dallas in partnership with Big Thought, has surrounded children and their families with high quality arts and cultural experiences that stimulate creativity and learning. Much of the work done by the Thriving Minds program occurs in the afterschool space. Currently, nearly two-fifths of the funding for afterschool programs in DISD comes from 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) federal funding. Dallas afterschool programs also receive workforce funding from the state of Texas.

Additionally the Outreach After School Program, which funds school-based programs throughout the city, receives nearly \$800,000 annually from the city budget. The Dallas Park and Recreation Department

also uses city funds to offer afterschool programs in both schools and community recreation centers. Though the city of Dallas recently made reductions to its overall operating budget, great care was taken to maintain all of the afterschool programs, including the Outreach After School Programs. The administration of the Park Department and the city's elected officials recognize the importance of afterschool programming for a significant portion of the city's youth.

Many of Dallas' children are served after school through privately-funded, local community-based organizations operating in schools, community centers, churches and apartment complexes. With all of these valuable resources and an increasing awareness of why afterschool is so critical to keeping students on the path to graduation, Dallas could be on its way to providing greater access to afterschool for all its residents.

*In Dallas, 221 households were surveyed for this study. Among those households, 40 percent qualified for free or reduced price lunch, 11 percent were Hispanic and 19 percent were African-American. *According to U.S. Census data from 2008, the total school-age population in Dallas is 217,334, which is the foundation for all citywide projections in Dallas. The margin of error for Dallas is +/- 4.3 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 Dallas sample may not be reflective of the overall population of Dallas city proper.¹*

¹ Current DISD statistics indicate that 87.8% of Dallas public school students are economically disadvantaged, 67.6% are Hispanic and 26.4% are African-American.