



New York City After 3PM

The largest city in the United States also has one of the largest percentages of children in afterschool programs. With nearly three in ten children (28%) participating in an afterschool program and two in five children (40%) participating in a summer learning program, New York City boasts an impressive number of children served by enrichment programs, both after school during the school year (374,358) and in the summer time (534,798). Parents are also overwhelmingly supportive of afterschool and summer programs, especially when compared to national averages. While 83 percent of parents nationally support funding for afterschool and summer learning programs, more than 90 percent of New York City parents support increased funds for both types of expanded learning opportunities. Even more impressive, nearly all (98%) New York City parents surveyed agree that there should be some type of place for kids to go after school every day that provides them with opportunities to learn. However, while parents in the five boroughs are enjoying quality after school care at a higher rate than most of the country, there are still more than one in five New York City children (23%) going home alone each day after school. There is much more work to do to ensure that all New York City children have access to safe and enriching afterschool programs.

	National %	New York %	New York City %	Estimated Number of Kids*
Percentage of Kids in Afterschool Programs	15	21	28	374,358
Percentage of Kids in Self Care	26	25	23	307,509
Percentage of Kids in Sibling Care	14	18	24	320,879
Percentage of Kids in Summer Learning Programs	25	31	40	534,798
Percentage of Parents that Support Public Funding for Afterschool Programs	83	86	91	
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	93	98	
Percentage of Parents that Support Public Funding for Summer Learning Programs	83	85	92	

Luckily, New York City has numerous city-funded afterschool initiatives that have grown in recent years, providing more and more children with quality, enriching afterschool environments. The majority of city funds for afterschool programs come primarily through the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), which utilizes city, state and federal funding to coordinate three major initiatives: Beacons Centers; the Out-of-School Time (OST) Initiative and programs funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), such as the Summer Youth Employment Program. New York City's Out-of-School Time Initiative is the largest municipally-funded afterschool initiative in the nation. The free programs offered by the city through this initiative provide a balanced mix of academic support, sports, recreational activities and cultural experiences for elementary, middle school and high school youth. The city's Beacon Centers operate in the afternoons and evenings, on weekends, during school holidays and vacation periods, and during the summer. The centers provide a range of activities for young people of all ages including tutoring, college prep, photography, basketball and martial arts.

New York City also enjoys 60 percent of the total state funds for the Advantage After School Program, which is partially-funded by Federal Temporary Assistance for Need Families (TANF) dollars. Additionally, in October 2010, the New York State Education Department will announce approximately \$24 million in new grant awards through the Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention Program,

which will provide additional sources of support for New York City. This funding stream supports programs that address either the problem of school violence or support an extended school day.

New York City also has a strong partner in The After-School Corporation (TASC). In 1998, The Open Society Institute gave a \$125 million dollar challenge grant to TASC, which began operations the same year. With the grant money, TASC set out to develop programs that demonstrably benefited children and youth with the goal of transforming the way that afterschool programs are delivered, funded and institutionalized as an essential service for children and their families. TASC tests and promotes promising models to expand the time and ways kids learn by providing financial support, training, and technical assistance to selected afterschool programs that serve thousands of kids each year throughout New York City.

TASC is also devoted to encouraging the creation of sustainable public funding streams to support afterschool programs in New York City, and has been a central player in helping New York City establish the nation's largest city-based afterschool system. In 1998 it is estimated that spending on afterschool programs in New York City was approximately \$20 million. By 2000, spending had risen to over \$100 million, and by 2008, available funds for afterschool programs reached nearly \$300 million. The work of TASC and New York City's DYCD has leveraged additional important commitments from the philanthropic community, including the Wallace and Bowne Foundations, as well as from New York City Public Schools.

The public and private funding that has been secured helps support New York City's vibrant and diverse network of community-based organizations that provide afterschool programming, including YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, Children's Aid Society programs, Jewish Community Centers and settlement houses. These organizations help ensure that children in all parts of the city, from all different backgrounds receive the support necessary after school by providing programs that are responsive to local community needs. Additionally, New York City afterschool programs are backed by advocates, capacity builders, professional developers, funders, public agencies and other important partners that make afterschool possible throughout the city.

Despite some recent funding setbacks due to economic concerns, New York City has seen a dramatic increase in federal, state and local funding for its afterschool efforts over the past ten years. As long as partnerships throughout New York remain strong, the country's largest city should continue to be a leader in afterschool opportunities.¹

*In New York City, 250 households were surveyed for this study. Among those households, 70 percent qualified for free or reduced price lunch, 34 percent were Hispanic and 28 percent were African-American. *According to U.S. Census data from 2008, the total school-age population in New York City is 1,336,994, which is the foundation for all citywide projections in New York City. The margin of error for New York is +/- 3.7 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 New York City sample may not be reflective of the overall population of New York City proper.*

In 2004, Citizens' Committee for Children (CCC) conducted its own survey of New York City parents, entitled Out of School Programs and Services in New York City: Participation, Satisfaction and Barriers. Due to differences in methodology, and to CCC's broader definition of afterschool, the rate of program participation identified in CCC's survey was significantly larger than that identified in the America After 3 PM study. Despite these differences in methodology, the outcomes of both studies highlight a large number of children who are not served by afterschool programs and underscore the need for additional programs in New York City.

¹ Institute for Education and Social Policy (2008). *IESP Policy Brief: Public Funding for Comprehensive After-School Programs, 1998-2008*. New York City: New York University.