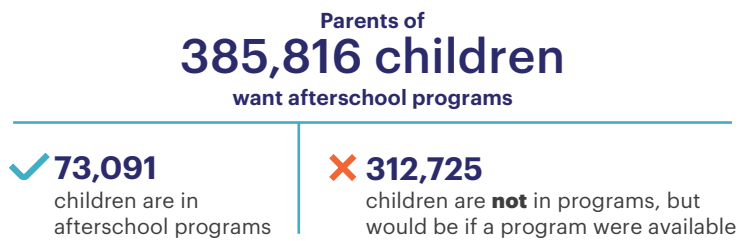


# This is Afterschool in Alabama

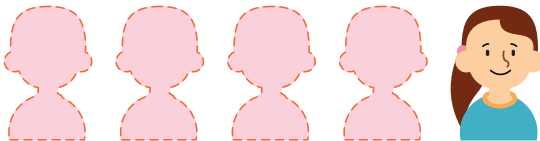


Alabama parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Alabama, more than 312,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

## Demand for Afterschool Programs in Alabama is Enormous



Approximately 4 in 5 Alabama children are missing out.



## Afterschool Programs Support Alabama Children’s Learning and Development

Alabama parents give programs high marks for quality and for supporting their child with:



## Afterschool Works in Alabama

A 2024 evaluation of Alabama’s 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs found that the programs supported students academically and behaviorally. Programs helped:

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** Students agreed that programs helped them improve in reading and math (88%, all) and 59% of teachers reported an improvement in their participating students’ academic performance.
- ▲ **Improve behavior, engagement, and well-being:** 79% of students reported that programs helped them improve their school-day behavior and 90% of parents agreed that their child gets along better with others since attending the program. A majority of teachers observed improved student participation (55%), while 95% of students reported feeling safe in the program.
- ▲ **Reduce absenteeism:** 85% of parents agreed that their child’s school-day attendance has improved since participating in the program.

# Alabama Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

84%

Agree that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs.



84%

Are in favor of public funding for afterschool programs. Support for public funding is also high across political affiliations.



## Afterschool Programs Help Working Families and Strengthen the Economy

Alabama parents report that their child's afterschool program:

82%

Helps them keep their job



87%

Leads to less stress



79%

Boosts productivity



Additionally, research spanning several states shows that **every \$1 invested** in afterschool programs **saves at least \$3** by:



Increasing kids' earning potential as adults



Improving kids' performance at school



Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



**If there were not an afterschool program available, what, if any impact would it have on your family?**

"I would not be able to keep my job, and it would be difficult finding another one as good as the one I have."

— ALABAMA MOM

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) is the only federal funding dedicated to afterschool and summer programs, enabling states to award funds to local programs that meet community needs. 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs engage students in hands-on learning activities aimed at supporting their academic growth, provide a variety of enrichment activities to complement school-day learning, and offer educational and support services to the families of participating children.

IN ALABAMA:

**15,150**  
children are served by  
a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program

**154**  
communities  
served

Demand for programming in Alabama is so great that **1 out of every 2** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

### Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Alabama After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/alabama/demand>.
2. Dadd, S. & Kane, E. (2024). *21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers statewide evaluation end-year report*. Troy University.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Alabama State Department of Education. (2026). [Number of children and communities served by AL 21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs, 2025] [Unpublished raw data].

### About the Afterschool Alliance

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. Learn more at: [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)



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