Support for afterschool is overwhelming and demand is growing. Nationwide, 9 in 10 adults say afterschool programs are important to their community—and more than 19 million kids are waiting to get in. Decades of research prove afterschool helps kids attend school more often, get better grades, and build foundational skills, like communication, teamwork, and problem solving.

School-age kids spend 80 percent of their waking hours outside of school. Afterschool and summer learning programs provide transformative learning experiences in unique settings that help young people discover what they love to do and reach their full potential.

Supporting Arkansas’s Students

A 2018 evaluation by the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality of Arkansas’s 21st CCLC programs found that among students regularly participating in programs, 74% and 62% increased or remained in the advanced or proficient levels in reading and math, respectively. Additionally, 9 in 10 students reported that the program helped with communication and teamwork skills.

Among Arkansas parents:

- 63% agree that afterschool programs help their kids get excited about learning.
- 72% report that their kids have learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in their afterschool program and 62% agree afterschool programs can help kids gain STEM-related interests and skills.
- 63% agree afterschool programs help kids gain teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking skills.

Unmet Demand for Afterschool in Arkansas

For every Arkansas student in afterschool, 3 more would participate if a program were available.

ENROLLED: 
65,107
STUDENTS

WAITING: 
190,563
STUDENTS

21st Century Community Learning Center grants are the only dedicated federal funding source that support local communities’ afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programs is so great that 1 out of every 2 applications cannot be funded.
Supporting Arkansas’s Families

Families across America report that the gap between work and school schedules can be up to 25 hours per week. Parents lose 8 days of work, and businesses lose up to $300 billion a year due to parental concerns about afterschool care.

Among Arkansas parents:

- 74% say afterschool programs give them peace of mind.
- 79% agree afterschool programs help them keep their jobs. 74% believe afterschool reduces the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.
- 84% support public funding for afterschool programs.

Afterschool provides a solid return on investment. Research spanning several states shows that every $1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least $3 by:

1. Increasing kids’ earning potential
2. Improving kids’ performance at school
3. Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

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Nationally, children attend programs in:

- Public school districts: 7,892
- Community-based organizations: 959
- Charter schools: 386
- Faith-based organizations: 115

In a nationwide study of students who regularly attend a Community Learning Center, teachers report that:

1 in 2 improved their math and Language Arts grades
More than 2 in 3 improved their homework completion and class participation
3 in 5 improved their behavior in class

This is Afterschool Helping students thrive.

“Caring staff who serve as mentors, leadership development opportunities, and future planning are just a few of the benefits I have been able to experience. None of these things would have been possible for me if not for my afterschool program. My afterschool experience has been nothing short of transformational. It has helped me stay on track to graduate and also helped me to realize what my future can look like.”

Kaleb Roberston
Afterschool program alumnus and current student at Fox Valley Technical College, Culinary Arts program

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