

# This is Afterschool in Arizona



Arizona 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 Arizona, more than 460,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

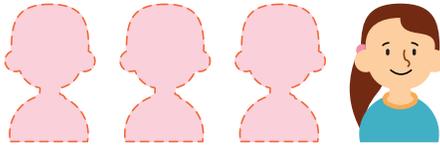
## Demand for Afterschool Programs in Arizona is Enormous

Parents of  
**633,037 children**  
want afterschool programs

✓ **172,458**  
children are in  
afterschool programs

✗ **460,580**  
children are **not** in programs, but  
would be if a program were available

Nearly 3 in 4 Arizona children are missing out.



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

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



## Afterschool Works in Arizona

In a 2024 U.S. Department of Education report on 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs nationally, Arizona students attending afterschool programs saw both academic and behavioral improvements. Programs helped:

- Boost academic performance:** Nearly half of participants in 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade made gains on their state reading/language arts (46%) and math assessments (47%). Additionally, 51% of 7<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with a prior-year GPA less than 3.0 improved their GPA.
- Reduce chronic absenteeism:** 42% of chronically absent students improved their school-day attendance.
- Improve engagement and behavior:** 75% of participants improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning, and 56% of students decreased their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.

# Arizona Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

87%

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



87%

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

Arizona parents report that their child's afterschool program:

81%

Helps them keep their job



92%

Leads to less stress



89%

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?**

"It would have a drastic impact on my family. We would have to find convenient and safe childcare."

— ARIZONA 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 ARIZONA:

**61,269**  
children are served by  
a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program

**238**  
communities  
served

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

### Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Arizona After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/arizona/demand>.
2. U.S. Department of Education. (2024). *21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) analytic support for evaluation and program monitoring: An overview of the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC performance data: 2022-2023 (19<sup>th</sup> report)*. Washington, DC.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Arizona Department of Education. (2026). [Number of children and communities served by AZ 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)



afterschoolalliancedc



afterschool4all



afterschool-alliance



afterschool4all



Afterschool Alliance