

Afterschool Alliance COVID Tracking Parent Survey

Data are based on an online survey, conducted by Edge Research May 12 to June 28, 2022 of 1,498 parents.

SURVEY¹

Screening Questions and Answers

Below are different options a parent or guardian might use to care for children when the school day ends. During a typical week during the current (2021-2022) school year, please indicate how many of your children are regularly cared for afterschool (approximately 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.) by the following.

Parent or guardian	73%
Sibling (brother/sister)	7%
Another adult relative (such as a grandparent, aunt or uncle)	10%
Another adult (not a relative, such as a neighbor or paid sitter)	3%
Childcare facility or family childcare center	7%
Looking after themselves (self-care)	17%
Afterschool program, defined as a program that a child regularly attends that provides a supervised, enriching environment in the hours after the school day ends (typically around 3 P.M.). These programs are usually offered in schools or community centers and are different from individual activities such as sports, special lessons, or hobby clubs, and different from childcare facilities that provide supervision but not enrichment. At this time, some of these are open in-person, and some are being offered virtually.	13%
Other	1%

Number of respondents: 1,498

¹ Totals within questions may be different due to rounding.



During a typical week during the current (2021-2022) school year, how many hours does your child spend in the following types of care?

Parent/guardian:

Mean	8.9 hours
Median	10 hours
Up to 5 hours/week	35%
6-10 hours/week	21%
11-14 hours/week	11%
15 hours/week	32%

Number of respondents: 913

In the care of a sibling under the age of 13:

Mean	2.7 hours
Median	1.8 hours
Up to 5 hours/week	85%
6-10 hours/week	15%
11-14 hours/week	-
15 hours/week	-

Number of respondents: 41

Looking after themselves:

Mean	6.2 hours
Median	5 hours
Up to 5 hours/week	59%
6-10 hours/week	21%
11-14 hours/week	6%
15 hours/week	14%

Number of respondents: 173

In an afterschool program:

Mean	6.6 hours
Median	5.2 hours

Up to 5 hours/week	50%
6-10 hours/week	34%
11-14 hours/week	5%
15 hours/week	10%

Number of respondents: 426

Activities such as sports, special lessons, or clubs that have a specific focus:

Mean	4.3 hours
Median	3 hours
Up to 5 hours/week	77%
6-10 hours/week	17%
11-14 hours/week	3%
15 hours/week	3%

Number of respondents: 736

How is your child attending school?

All in-person classes	81%
All online instruction	6%
A mix of in-person classes and online instruction	10%
Something else	3%

Number of respondents: 1,498

Afterschool Program Participant Questions and Answers

Please indicate which of the following specific afterschool programs your child participates in during the current school year. These could be happening in-person, virtually, or both. Select all that apply.

Afterschool program run by a public school	44%
Afterschool program run by a private school	17%
YMCA afterschool program	14%
Boys & Girls Club afterschool program	14%

Afterschool program run by a city or town (including Parks and Recreation Department)	14%
Afterschool program run by a child care center	12%
Afterschool program run by a for-profit organization	12%
Afterschool program run by a library	10%
YWCA afterschool program	9%
Afterschool program run by a museum or science center	8%
Afterschool program run by a religious organization	6%
4-H afterschool program	6%
Other	5%
Unsure	1%

Number of respondents: 572

How is your child's afterschool program operating currently?

Open in-person for all students	70%
Open in-person for some students	6%
Hybrid – mix of in-person and virtual sessions	22%
Virtual only	1%
Something else	1%

Number of respondents: 572

At this point in time, how is your child attending the afterschool program?

In-person only	76%
Virtually only	2%
A mix of in-person and virtual	22%
Something else	0%

Number of respondents: 572

During the current school year, is your child's afterschool program physically located in a public-school building?

Yes	78%
No	22%

Don't know	0%
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Number of respondents: 557

Typically, how many days per week does your child participate in any afterschool program in the current school year (either in-person or virtually)?

1	5%
2	11%
3	25%
4	17%
5	41%
Don't know	1%
Mean	3.8 days

Number of respondents: 572

On average, excluding any government assistance you might receive, how much money does your family spend on afterschool programs for your child, in a typical week during the current school year? An estimate is fine.

Up to \$20/week	29%
\$21 - \$50/week	17%
\$51 - \$100/week	24%
More than \$100/week	30%
Mean (excluding \$0)	\$125.40

Number of respondents: 405

Do you receive any governmental assistance with the cost of afterschool programs for your child in an afterschool program (such as reduced cost or child care voucher)?

Yes	17%
No	82%
Don't know	1%

Number of respondents: 572

What is the dollar amount of the governmental assistance for afterschool care that you receive per week for your child? An estimate would be fine.

Up to \$25/week	28%
\$26-\$49/week	6%
\$50-\$75/week	11%
\$76-\$99/week	7%
\$100-\$199/week	31%
\$200 or more/week	18%
Mean (excluding \$0)	\$90.90

Number of respondents: 96

Does the afterschool program your child attends offer:

	Yes responses
Reading or writing time	80%
Homework or academic help	79%
Snacks/meals including healthy options	76%
Science, technology, engineering, math, or computer science learning opportunities	67%
Music or arts	65%
A safe, supervised learning environment during virtual school days	62%
Parent/family activities	49%
College or career exploration	48%
Service learning or community service	46%
Programming to reduce risky behaviors, including substance use, teen pregnancy, and violence	44%
Before-school programs	43%
Cultural programming	42%
Transportation	33%

Number of respondents: 572

Does the afterschool program your child attends provide opportunities to do the following?

	Yes responses
Interact with peers and build social skills	91%
Physical activity	87%
Build confidence	86%
Experience the outdoors	80%
Connect with caring adults	79%
Build life skills	78%
Learn responsible decision-making	78%

Number of respondents: 572

How important were each of the following reasons in selecting your child's primary afterschool program?

	Top 2 box Extremely/Somewhat important
Safety of environment	93%
Knowledgeable and caring staff	92%
Convenient hours	92%
Variety of activities	89%
Convenient location	89%
Opportunities to build life skills, like interacting with peers, developing social skills, and responsible decision making	89%
Physical activity opportunities	88%
Exciting my child about learning	86%
Homework or academic help	83%
Opportunities for reading or writing	83%
Sharing my family's values	78%
Program costs	78%
Science, technology, engineering, math, or computer science learning opportunities	78%
Opportunities to connect with caring adults	78%
Opportunities to experience the outdoors	77%
Learning activities not provided during the school day	76%

College or career exploration	73%
Programming to reduce risky behaviors, including substance use, teen pregnancy, and violence prevention programs	73%
Snacks/meals including healthy options	72%
Music or arts	68%
Transportation is provided	51%

Number of respondents: 572

Overall, how satisfied are you with your child's experience in the afterschool program they attend most regularly?

Extremely or somewhat satisfied overall	95%
Extremely satisfied	62%
Somewhat satisfied	32%
Neutral	3%
Somewhat dissatisfied	1%
Extremely dissatisfied	-
Don't know	0%

Number of respondents: 572

Overall, how would you rate the quality of the afterschool program your child attends most regularly?

Excellent	51%
Very good	39%
Good	10%
Fair	1%
Poor	0%

Number of respondents: 572

How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of your child's primary afterschool program?

	Top 2 box Extremely/Somewhat satisfied
The hours meet my needs	92%

Safety of environment	91%
Knowledgeable and caring staff	91%
Physical activity opportunities	88%
Opportunities to build life skills, like interacting with peers, developing social skills, and responsible decision making	87%
Program costs	83%
Opportunities for reading or writing	82%
Program convenience, such as location or transportation is provided	81%
Homework or academic help	81%
Opportunities to connect with caring adults	81%
Opportunities to experience the outdoors	79%
Snacks/meals including healthy options	77%
Science, technology, engineering, math, or computer science learning opportunities	77%
Music or arts	68%
Programming to reduce risky behaviors, including substance use, teen pregnancy, and violence	67%
College or career exploration or readiness	66%
Addresses the special needs of my child	63%

Number of respondents: 572

How easy or difficult was it to find an afterschool program that had space available this school year?

Very easy	51%
Somewhat easy	34%
Neither easy nor difficult	8%
Somewhat difficult	4%
Very difficult	1%

Number of respondents: 572

Prior to enrolling, was your child placed on a waiting list to await openings in the program?

Yes	22%
No	76%

Not sure	3%
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Number of respondents: 572

IF YES: How long were you/your child on the waiting list?

Less than a month	32%
1-2 months	38%
3-4 months	25%
5-6 months	2%
Over 6 months	3%

Number of respondents: 135

Below are a set of statements we hear from families about their afterschool programs. How much do you agree or disagree with each? The program allows me to ...

	Top 2 box Completely/Somewhat agree
Keep my job or work more hours	86%
Build skills through classes and/or workshops	76%
Connect with community resources (e.g., dental clinics, financial planning, mental health services)	67%

Number of respondents: 572

Non-Afterschool Program Participant Questions and Answers

If an afterschool program as described above were available in your community, please indicate how likely you would be to have any of your children participate in such a program this school year (2021-2022).

Extremely or somewhat likely overall	54%
Extremely likely	25%
Somewhat likely	28%
Neither likely nor unlikely	13%
Somewhat unlikely	11%
Not at all likely	19%
Don't know	3%

Number of respondents: 901

Many factors may influence your decision not to enroll your child/children in afterschool programs. How important is each of the following in your decision not to attend?

	Top 2 box Extremely/Somewhat important
I prefer that my child/children remain with me or another adult during the afterschool hours	63%
The afterschool programs are too expensive	57%
My child/children are old enough to care for themselves	57%
Concern that afterschool programs would expose my child/children to negative influences, experiences, and values, such as bullying and peer pressure	53%
My child/children do not have a safe way to get to and come home from afterschool programs	52%
The afterschool programs' locations are not convenient	51%
The afterschool programs' hours of operation do not meet my needs	49%
Afterschool programs are not available in my community	44%
There are no spaces available in the afterschool program that I would prefer	39%
Afterschool programs do not address the special needs of my child/children	37%
The waiting list was too long for the afterschool program I would prefer	37%
My child/children has/have other commitments, such as caring for younger siblings or working	30%

Number of respondents: 926

Questions for All

During a typical week in the current school year, how many of your children participate in the following after school (approximately 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.)?

Organized team sports	43%
Special lessons like art, music or dance lessons	17%
Study group or tutoring	8%

Clubs that meet occasionally and have a specific focus on a subject, skill or hobby, such as computer coding, leadership, chess, etc.	6%
Work obligations	5%
Religious activities	4%
Volunteering	3%
Other organized activities	3%
Scouting	2%
None of these	32%

Number of respondents: 1,498

Thinking about this school year (2021-2022), to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

	Top 2 box Completely/Somewhat agree
Afterschool programs provide working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe and supervised	85%
Afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs	83%
All young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs	83%
Afterschool programs keep kids safe and out of trouble	82%
Afterschool programs allow kids to build positive relationships with caring adults and mentors	78%
Afterschool programs provide additional academic support to help children catch up and keep up in school	77%
Afterschool programs provide support to parents who are trying to find job/s	77%
The experience of coronavirus makes me appreciate school teachers and afterschool providers more than ever before	73%
Afterschool programs help parents build connections to their child's school day education	66%
The economic conditions created by the pandemic made it difficult for me to currently afford placing my children in an afterschool program	48%

Number of respondents: 1,498

Do you favor or oppose public funding for programs that provide afterschool opportunities to students in communities that have few opportunities for children and youth?

Favor strongly or somewhat overall	88%
Favor strongly	53%
Favor somewhat	35%
Oppose somewhat	5%
Oppose strongly	2%
Don't know	5%

Number of respondents: 1,498

Do you favor or oppose public funding for programs that provide summer learning opportunities to students in communities that have few opportunities for children and youth?

Favor strongly or somewhat overall	87%
Favor strongly	53%
Favor somewhat	34%
Oppose somewhat	6%
Oppose strongly	2%
Don't know	6%

Number of respondents: 1,498

Summer Specific Questions and Answers

This upcoming summer, will your child/ren participate in a summer program, that is, a safe, structured program that provides activities designed to encourage learning and development during the summer months?

Yes, already registered	30%
Yes, planning on registering	22%
No	34%
Not sure	14%

Number of respondents: 1,498

How important are each of the following in choosing what your child does during the summer?

	Top 2 box Extremely/Somewhat important
Safety of environment	89%
Knowledgeable and caring staff	88%
Convenient hours	84%
Opportunities to build life skills, like interacting with peers, developing social skills, and responsible decision making	84%
Physical activity opportunities	84%
Variety of activities	83%
Program costs	80%
Program convenience, such as location or transportation	80%
Opportunities to experience the outdoors	80%
Snacks/meals including healthy options	74%
Science, technology, engineering, math, or computer science learning opportunities	74%
Helps keep my child from losing academic ground over the summer	73%
Opportunities to connect with caring adults	73%
Programming to reduce risky behaviors, including substance use, teen pregnancy, and violence	67%
College or career exploration	66%
Music or arts	63%
The program is the same one that my child participates in during the school year	50%

Number of respondents: 1,469

Summer Program Participant Question and Answers

In which type of summer program will your child/ren participate? Select all that apply.

Voluntary summer program that provides a variety of learning and enrichment activities	47%
All other specialty camps or programs (e.g., arts, sports, drama, religious)	38%
Optional summer school classes for credit or enrichment	22%
Mandatory summer school/school credit recovery program	14%
STEM camp	13%

Work/summer job/internship	10%
College readiness/preparation program	4%
Other	4%

Number of respondents: 870

Non-Summer Program Participant Question and Answers

How concerned are you about each of the following as factors that could keep you from enrolling your child/children in a summer program?

	Top 2 box Extremely/Very concerned
Summer programs being too expensive	43%
Issues with location or transportation	24%
No programs, or spaces, available in programs relevant to my children's needs or interests	22%
Not knowing what programs are available for my child	22%
Summer programs not being available in my community	21%

Number of respondents: 628