

# From a Time of Risk to a Time of Opportunity

## This is Afterschool



The hours after the last school bell rings and before parents typically return home from work is a time of endless opportunities and potential for young people. It can be a time of learning and growth, when kids explore new topics in fields like science, technology, engineering, and math; discover new interests; and develop their communication, teamwork, and leadership skills alongside supportive mentors. It can also be a time of risk, as an October 2019 report by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a membership organization of more than 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and other law enforcement leaders, found.



**9 in 10 adults agree that afterschool programs are important to their community**

Although juvenile crime has dramatically decreased in the past decade, *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks* determined that nationally, the hours between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. are the peak time for juvenile crime.<sup>1</sup>

In the U.S., for every 1 young person in an afterschool program that inspires learning, provides enriching activities, and keeps them safe, there are 2 more who are waiting to get in. Public support for afterschool is high, with 9 in 10 adults agreeing that afterschool programs are important to their community, but there are not enough programs today to meet the needs of all children and families. The new Fight Crime: Invest in Kids data is further evidence of the need to do more to help ensure that all youth are able to take advantage of the benefits and supports that afterschool programs provide.

### Juvenile Crime in Iowa

Analyzing data obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting database, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids' report, *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks*, determined that 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. is the peak time for juvenile crime in Iowa during school days, with 26% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

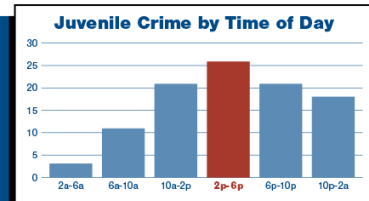
In Iowa, 70% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 59% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

*With 145,383 students in Iowa waiting to get into an afterschool program, increased investment in afterschool programs is needed.*

### 2 to 6 p.m.: The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime in Iowa

#### Quality Afterschool Programs:

- Reduce Crime
- Boost Academics
- Improve Behavior
- Lead to Healthier Habits
- Save Money



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME:  
INVEST IN KIDS  
TOOK FOR IOWA

## Program Spotlight

PIECES Afterschool Program (PIECES) | Burlington, IA



At the PIECES Afterschool Program (PIECES) in rural Burlington, Iowa, students in kindergarten through 8th grade have a safe place to go after their last school bell rings, engaging in enriching learning activities with topics that range from STEM to health and wellness and the arts to the environment. The free 21st Century Community Learning Center program is offered at two middle schools and five elementary schools in the Burlington Community School District (BCSD), serving more than 1,000 students during the 2017-18 school year.

Community partnerships are a priority for PIECES; the program has strong partnerships with upwards of 40 local groups including Southeastern Community College, the Burlington public library, the YMCA of Burlington, as well as the Burlington Police Department. Through its partnership with the police department, PIECES students have received mentoring from detectives in a Crime Scene Investigation club, played flag

football with officers, and girls in the program have heard from female police officers about what it is like to be a woman in law enforcement. The successful collaboration between PIECES and the Burlington Police Department has led to relationships with the fire department, the parks and recreation department, and the city government. Major Darren Grimshaw, who joined BCSD's afterschool advisory board after two years of volunteering with PIECES, said, "Afterschool programs give kids a safe place to be—and a place where we can reach out and begin to break down some of those barriers that exist between the department and the neighborhoods." PIECES students also saw improvements in their academics and behavior. Approximately 3 in 4 students improved their state assessment scores in math (74 percent) and literacy (78 percent), while school day teachers reported that close to half of PIECES middle school students improved their behavior (48 percent).



**Afterschool Alliance**

[afterschoolalliance.org](http://afterschoolalliance.org)

Source

<sup>1</sup> Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. (2019). *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks*. Retrieved from [www.strongnation.org/articles/930-from-risk-to-opportunity-afterschool-programs-keep-kids-safe](http://www.strongnation.org/articles/930-from-risk-to-opportunity-afterschool-programs-keep-kids-safe)

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)