

This is Afterschool in Connecticut

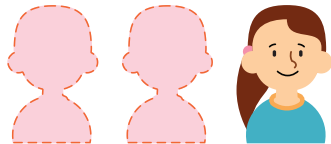


Connecticut parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Connecticut, approximately 195,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

Demand for Afterschool Programs in Connecticut is Enormous



2 in 3 Connecticut children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support Connecticut Children’s Learning and Development

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



Afterschool Works in Connecticut

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

- ▲ **Reduce chronic absenteeism:** Nearly three-fourths (74%) of chronically absent students improved their school-day attendance.
- ▲ **Improve engagement and behavior:** 53% of participants in grades 1 through 5 improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning, and all students who had an in-school suspension the previous year experienced a decrease.
- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** About one-third of 4th through 8th graders made gains on their state reading/language arts (31%) and math assessments (36%).

Connecticut Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

87%

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



88%

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

Connecticut parents report that their child's afterschool program:

86%

Helps them keep their job



92%

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?

"If these programs did not exist, it would impact many aspects of everyday life...it would mean added costs and much more stress..."

— CONNECTICUT DAD

21st Century Community Learning Centers

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21st CCLC) is the only federal funding dedicated to afterschool and summer programs, enabling states to award funds to local programs that meet community needs. 21st 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 CONNECTICUT:

5,697

children are served by a 21st CCLC program

106

communities served

Demand for programming in Connecticut is so great that **2 out of every 5** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Connecticut After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/connecticut/demand>.
2. U.S. Department of Education. (2024). *21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) analytic support for evaluation and program monitoring: An overview of the 21st CCLC performance data: 2022-2023 (19th 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. Connecticut State Department of Education. (2026). [Number of children and communities served by CT 21st 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



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