

Inspiring Learning.
Safe and Supportive.
Lifeline for Working Families.

This is Afterschool in Connecticut



Afterschool Alliance

March 2020

After the school day ends in Connecticut, 1 in 5 kids are alone and unsupervised. These hours—from 2 to 6 p.m.—are the peak time for juvenile crime in Connecticut according to the latest report by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a national organization of law enforcement leaders. Afterschool programs turn that time of risk into opportunity. They keep kids safe and help them realize their full potential. Nationwide, 9 in 10 adults say afterschool programs are important to their community, yet more than 19 million kids are waiting to get in.

Fortunately for the 99,710 children in afterschool programs in Connecticut, the hours after school are a time when programs help kids get excited about learning, attend school more often, get better grades, and build foundational skills, like communication, teamwork, and problem solving.

Inspiring Learning



56% of Connecticut parents agree that afterschool programs help their kids get excited about learning.



60% of Connecticut parents agree afterschool programs can help kids gain STEM-related interests and skills.



60% of Connecticut parents agree afterschool programs help kids gain teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking skills.



52% of Connecticut parents agree that afterschool programs help students improve school day attendance.

Keeping Kids Safe and Supported



72% of Connecticut parents believe afterschool programs reduce the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.



70% of Connecticut parents agree that afterschool programs provide access to caring adults and mentors.

Unmet Demand for Afterschool in Connecticut

For every Connecticut student in afterschool, **2 more** would participate if a program were available.



ENROLLED:
99,710
STUDENTS



WAITING:
213,766
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 nationally that **2 out of every 3 applications cannot be funded.**

The Center for Applied Research in Human Development at the University of Connecticut and the Capitol Region Education Council jointly conducted a study of Connecticut's 21st CCLC afterschool programs that looked at students enrolled in the program for one to four years. The 2019 study found that students participating in afterschool programs for multiple years had significantly higher school day attendance rates and higher scores on Connecticut's standardized math and Language Arts test scores compared to one year participants.

21st Century Community Learning Centers

In Connecticut, 21st Century Community Learning Centers—local afterschool, before-school and summer learning programs that serve students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools—provide services for approximately 7,500 kids and 107 communities.

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



More than 3 in 5

improved their behavior in class

Community Learning Centers bring together diverse partners to meet community needs. A typical program receives \$67,000 from partners to supplement its federal funding. Nationwide, partner contributions totaled more than \$1 billion between 2006 and 2010.

A Lifeline for Working Families

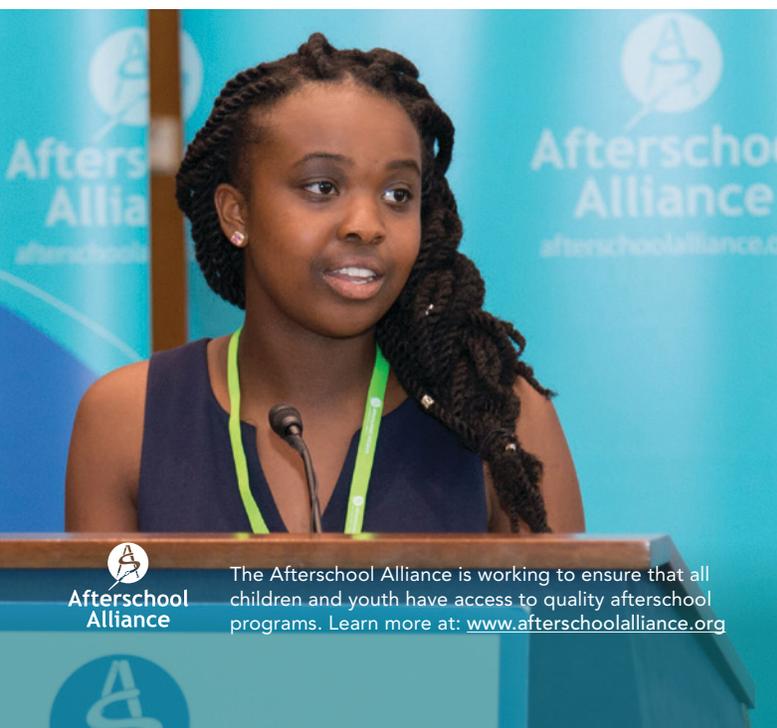
Families across America report that the gap between work and school schedules can be up to 25 hours per week. Parents lose 8 days of work, and businesses lose up to \$300 billion a year due to parental concerns about afterschool care.

- **70% of Connecticut** parents say afterschool programs give them peace of mind.
- **74% of Connecticut** parents agree afterschool programs help them keep their jobs.

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



"I've very much fed off of the kindness I received from the group leaders at Boys & Girls Club. As a result, I'm probably going to be teaching and combining my love for music with my teaching. Afterschool is about having options and getting to experiment with all those different things to figure out what it is that you really want."

Jazmyne McNair

Graduate of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lawrence, a 21st CCLC site in Lawrence, KS



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

This is Afterschool
Helping kids realize their full potential.