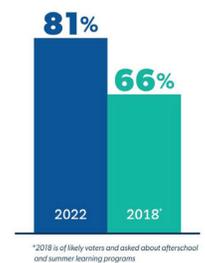


# Candidate Guide to Afterschool

**Afterschool is an issue that should be on your agenda.** These programs keep children safe and well-nourished while providing engaging, hands-on activities that raise school attendance, academic achievement, and graduation rates.

Americans understand that high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs are important. More than 8 in 10 adults (81%) agree that quality afterschool programs are an absolute necessity for their community. Voters value programs for providing students with a healthy snack or meal, homework help, hands-on activities, and diverse learning opportunities that allow them to explore new interests and develop new skills.

- Parents and kids want afterschool: Unmet demand for programs has climbed over the past 10 years. For every child in a program, four are waiting to get in.<sup>2</sup>
- 81% of parents support public funding for afterschool programs.<sup>1</sup> This is a bipartisan issue: 90% of Democrats, 74% of Republicans, and 66% of Independents support public funding for afterschool. Employers appreciate how afterschool gives parents peace of mind, and among families where both parents work outside the home, 87% report that afterschool programs help them keep their jobs.
- Afterschool helps students recover and thrive: Students in afterschool programs attend school more often, do better in school, and are more likely to graduate.<sup>3</sup>



Moreover, decades of research show the positive effect afterschool programs can have on issues that matter to constituents, including the economy, crime and safety, and preparing the future workforce.

Despite all we know about the benefits of afterschool programs, most children are missing out. Meeting the need for quality afterschool programs will require significant public investment to spur private contributions and systems change at every level—local, state, and federal.

*The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization that works to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool and summer learning opportunities. Additional information, including research briefs, fact sheets, and survey data can be found on our website [afterschoolalliance.org](https://afterschoolalliance.org).*

<sup>1</sup> Afterschool Alliance. (2023). Voters Agree Afterschool Programs are a Priority. Retrieved from <http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Voters-Agree-Afterschool-Programs-Are-A-Priority-January-2023.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Afterschool Alliance. (2020). America After 3PM: Demand Grows, Opportunity Shrinks. Retrieved from <http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AA3PM-2020/AA3PM-National-Report.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Afterschool Alliance. (2021). The Evidence Base for Afterschool and Summer. Retrieved from <http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/The-Evidence-BaseFor-Afterschool-And-Summer-2021.pdf>