

# This is Afterschool in Washington, D.C.



Washington, D.C., 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 Washington, D.C., approximately 39,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

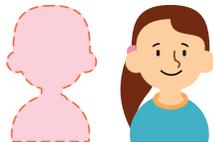
## Demand for Afterschool Programs in Washington, D.C., is Enormous

Parents of **74,915** children want afterschool programs

✓ **35,874** children are in afterschool programs

✗ **39,041** children are **not** in programs, but would be if a program were available

More than 1 in 2 Washington, D.C., children are missing out.



## Afterschool Programs Support Washington, D.C., Children’s Learning and Development

Washington, D.C., parents give programs high marks for quality and for supporting their child with:



## Afterschool Works in Washington, D.C.

In a 2024 report by the U.S. Department of Education on 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs nationally, D.C. students attending afterschool programs saw both academic and behavioral improvements. Programs helped:

- Improve engagement and behavior:** 74% of 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade participants improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning, and 90% of all students decreased their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.
- Reduce chronic absenteeism:** 69% of chronically absent students improved their school-day attendance.
- Boost academic performance:** Nearly half (46%) of 7<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who had a GPA below 3.0 the previous school year improved their GPA, while among students in grades 4 through 8, 39% demonstrated growth on their state reading/language arts assessments and 30% improved on their math assessments.

# Washington, D.C., Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

92%

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



91%

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

Washington, D.C., parents report that their child's afterschool program:

87%

Helps them keep their job



93%

Leads to less stress



88%

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?**

"Huge! We would have to reduce to a single-income household, as neither parent has a job that would allow for such a limited window of availability."

— WASHINGTON, D.C., MOM

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

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

7,901

children are served by a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program

70

communities served

Demand for programming in Washington, D.C., is so great that **3 out of every 4** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

### Citations

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



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