Afterschool Fostering Student Success in Florida

MAY 2016

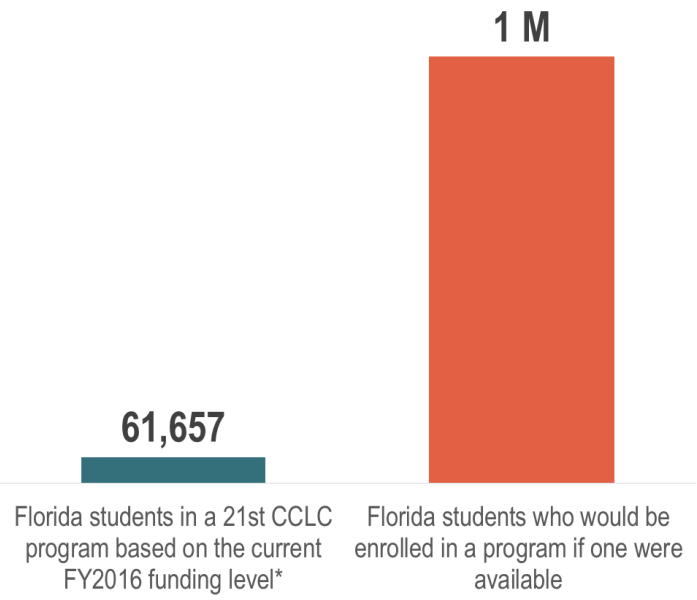
Afterschool Alliance

In Florida, afterschool programs are keeping students safe, inspiring them to learn and supporting Florida's working families. Yet 541,481 school-age children (19 percent) in Florida are alone and unsupervised during the hours after school. More than a decade of research confirms that quality afterschool programs are providing rich learning experiences for students, helping to narrow existing opportunity and achievement gaps, and positioning students toward a bright future as they move through school, career and life.

The challenge.

The need for afterschool programs far exceeds the funding available in Florida:

In Florida, the 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs. Investments in 21st CCLC programs are keeping children in high-poverty, low-performing schools safe and supported; engaged in interest-driven, academically enriching activities; and providing peace of mind to working families. However, the number of Florida students who would be enrolled in an afterschool program if one were available to them far outweighs the number of students who attend a 21st CCLC program, due in large part to limited federal funding for programs.



The Need for Afterschool in Florida:

1 million students in Florida would participate in an afterschool program if one were available to them (46%).

541,481 students are on their own during the hours after school in Florida (19%).

The Current State of Afterschool in Florida:

627,430 students participate in an afterschool program (22%).

61,657* students participate in a 21st CCLC program—programs that serve children living in high-poverty areas and attending low-performing schools.

140 21st CCLC grantees are in Florida.

374 communities are served by a 21st CCLC in Florida.

89% of Florida parents support public funding for afterschool programs.

An evaluation of Florida's 21st CCLC programs found that an overwhelming majority of students in the program reported that the programs helped them get along with others and solve problems (92%), improved their grades (87%) and helped them with their reading and math skills (85%). Additionally, almost all of the students surveyed reported that the program helped them to make career choices (96%). (*Children's Forum, Inc., 2014)*

**This figure is an Afterschool Alliance calculation based on the state-allocated 21st CCLC funding and a program cost of $1,000 per child. The program cost per child is an Afterschool Alliance estimation based on the Department of Education's per-student expenditures for: (1) all students attending 21st CCLC programs and (2) students who regularly attend 21st CCLC programs.*

Why afterschool? Research shows that quality afterschool programs are:

Improving engagement in school and conduct at school

A meta-analysis of 68 afterschool studies found that students in high-quality afterschool programs attended school more often and showed improvements in their behavior compared to students not enrolled in programs. Another study spanning 35 quality afterschool programs found that students regularly participating in programs saw improvements in their work habits, demonstrated higher levels of persistence and saw reductions in reports of misconduct, such as skipping school. (*Weissberg, R.P., Durlak, J. and Pachan, M., 2010; Vandell, D.L., Reisner, E.R. and Pierce, K.M., 2007)*

Increasing academic achievement

In addition to an evaluation on 21st CCLC programs that shows that more than 1 in 3 21st CCLC students made gains in their math and English grades, a study of outcomes associated with participation in afterschool programs found that students regularly participating during the elementary school years narrowed the math achievement gap at grade five between students from high-income and low-income families. (*Department of Education, 2015; Auger, A., Pierce, K.M. and Vandell, D.L., 2013*)

Immersing students in STEM

STEM programming is becoming widespread in afterschool. In Florida, 75 percent of parents report that their child has STEM learning opportunities in their afterschool program and 69 percent of parents agree that afterschool programs can help children gain STEM-related interests and skills. (*Afterschool Alliance, 2015*)

Promoting health and wellness

A national household survey commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance found that 72 percent of parents in Florida reported that their child's afterschool program serves snacks and/or meals and 85 percent said that it offers opportunities for physical activity. (*Afterschool Alliance, 2014*)

Supporting working families

Researchers report that parental concerns about afterschool care cost businesses up to $300 billion per year in decreased worker productivity. In Florida, 84 percent of parents surveyed agree that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs. (*Catalyst and Brandeis University, 2006; Afterschool Alliance, 2014*)

> *"…these [21st CCLC] students are more likely to persist to high school graduation. The data and performance indicate that this broad reaching program [21st CCLC] touches students' lives in ways that will have far reaching academic impact."*
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> *- U. S. Department of Education, An Overview of the 21st CCLC Performance Data, 2015*

The Child Care and Development Fund:

Fiscal year 2016 funding for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)—which provides vouchers or subsidies for low-income parents to pay for child care, including preschool, before-school, afterschool and summer care for children up to age 12—was $5.68 billion. President Obama's most recent 2017 budget proposes $82 billion over 10 years in mandatory funding to CCDF and an additional $200 million to help states transition to the law's updated requirements, many of which go into effect this fall.

Total FY2015 CCDF funds in Florida:
$388,257,328

Federal Share:
$294,568,013

Percentage of children receiving subsidies who are school age in Florida:
25%

Afterschool Alliance

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs.

More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.