

This is Afterschool in Iowa



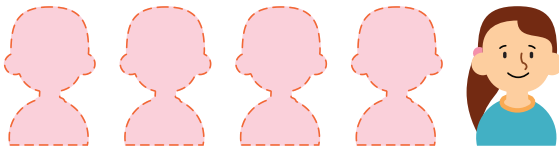
Iowa parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Iowa, approximately 179,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

Demand for Afterschool Programs in Iowa is Enormous

Parents of
229,400 children
want afterschool programs



Nearly 4 in 5 Iowa children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support Iowa Children's Learning and Development

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



Afterschool Works in Iowa

A 2023 Iowa Department of Education evaluation of the state's 21st CCLC programs found that programs helped:

Boost academic performance:

A majority of 4th through 8th grade participants demonstrated growth on their statewide reading (61%) and math assessments (66%). About half (51%) of 7th through 8th and 10th through 12th graders with a prior-year GPA below 3.0 improved their GPA.


Reduce chronic absenteeism:

67% of students who were chronically absent the previous school year improved their school-day attendance.

Improve engagement and behavior:

66% of 1st through 5th grade students improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning, and of 1st through 12th grade students with a prior year in-school suspension, more than half (58%) experienced a decrease.


Iowa Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs


90% 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

Iowa parents report that their child's afterschool program:



76% Helps them keep their job 


90% 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?

"This would impact the hours that my husband and I could work. It would be a huge problem if we did not have afterschool support."

— IOWA MOM

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 IOWA:

10,626
children are served by
a 21st CCLC program

79
communities
served

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Iowa After 3PM, fifth edition* [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/iowa/demand>.
2. Iowa Department of Education. (2023). *State evaluation of afterschool programs 2023: Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers – Title IV, Part B*.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Iowa Department of Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by IA 21st CCLCs, 2023-2024] [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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