



This is Afterschool in Illinois

Inspiring Students to Learn, Helping Them Make Smart Choices, and Giving Parents Peace of Mind

Decades of research show that afterschool programs help kids learn, grow, and avoid risky behaviors. Programs spark interest in learning so students attend school more often, get better grades, and improve their behavior in class. Through new learning experiences, young people discover what they love to do and gain the skills they need to land that first job.

Kids ages 6 to 18 spend 20% of their waking hours in school. How they spend the other 80% of their time outside of school also has a big impact on their success in school, their overall well-being, and their readiness for the future.

In a nationwide study of students who regularly attend 21st Century Community Learning Centers, teachers report that:

- › **65%** improved their class participation and homework completion
- › **57%** improved their classroom behavior
- › **Nearly half** improved their math and English grades

74% of Illinois parents agree that afterschool programs help children get excited about learning.

72% of Illinois parents agree that afterschool programs help children gain STEM-related interests and skills.

An EDC evaluation of Illinois' 21st CCLC programs found that, based on teachers surveyed, a majority of students regularly attending a 21st CCLC program saw improvements in their academic performance (elementary schoolers-71%, middle/high schoolers-61%), homework completion (elementary schoolers-76%, middle/high schoolers-61%), and regular class attendance (elementary schoolers-57%, middle/high schoolers-51%).

Illinois Needs More Afterschool

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



ENROLLED:
404,791
STUDENTS



WAITING:
741,400
STUDENTS

21st Century Community Learning Center grants are the only dedicated source of support for local communities' afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programs is so great that **2 out of every 5 applications cannot be funded.**

Across America, 1 in 5 kids are alone and unsupervised from 3 to 6 p.m. These are the hours when juvenile crime and victimization peak—and many parents are still at work. When kids have no place to go after school, they miss out on valuable learning opportunities, parents lose 8 days of work and businesses lose up to \$300 billion a year.

Afterschool is changing that.

Afterschool programs give parents peace of mind because they know their kids are safe—online and offline—and engaged in fun learning opportunities.

For many parents, afterschool is a lifeline that helps them work without worry and balance their schedule.

- 3 in 4 Illinois parents say afterschool programs give them peace of mind and help them keep their jobs.
- 7 in 10 Illinois parents believe afterschool reduces the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.
- 84% of Illinois parents support public funding for afterschool programs.

Afterschool provides a solid return on investment. Research shows that every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by:



- Increasing kids' learning potential
- Improving kids' performance at school
- Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

21st Century Community Learning Centers

In Illinois, 21st Century Community Learning Center grants support local afterschool and summer programs serving 47,970 children in 380 communities. The grants are the only dedicated federal source of afterschool support.

Communities that earn Community Learning Center grants work with local partners to meet community needs. A typical partner contributes an additional \$67,000 to support programs. Nationwide, partner contributions totaled more than \$1 billion from 2006 to 2010.

Nationally, children attend programs in:

- Public school districts: **9,446**
- Community based organizations: **1,125**
- Charter schools: **463**
- Faith-based organizations: **160**

This is

Afterschool

Helping Students Succeed
by Susanna Pradhan

My afterschool program and the experiences I have had because of it have shaped me into who I am today: a young woman who is determined, confident, and not afraid to stand up for what she believes is right. The program helped me improve in English and other school subjects. It provided a safe space where I could thrive academically and socially. I am constantly seeking new opportunities to challenge myself to learn, grow, and stretch my horizon to become a better student, a better leader and, most importantly, a better human being.



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