



This is Afterschool in Massachusetts

In Massachusetts, Brookline Teen Center kept its doors open with the help of \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds from the Town of Brookline. First established to fill the gap in afterschool opportunities that were available to high school students, the center is open to all Brookline high school students, providing academic support, mentoring, sports, a warm meal, and a safe space for approximately 500 teens to engage in enrichment opportunities until 8:00 p.m. five days per week. They have a recording studio, more than 30 teen-led clubs, and regularly host school events such as Poetry Slams or 8th-grade dances. With ARP funds, they expanded the students they serve into middle school, covered transportation-related costs, and funded staff positions. They also provide college and career counseling and support, having led 16 11th- and 12th-grade students on tours of six Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in North Carolina. And they plan to hire 20 teens as part of a new workforce development opportunity. Of the students who attended the HBCU tours, 50% applied to those schools.

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many Massachusetts youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In Massachusetts, for every child in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate if a program were available. And a national fall 2023 survey of afterschool program providers found that nearly 3 in 4 are concerned about their program’s long-term funding and future. Afterschool and summer programs across Massachusetts are accelerating students’ growth, supporting students’ well-being, and helping working families. To keep their doors open, these programs need additional investments at the local, state, and federal levels.

IMPROVING SCHOOL-DAY ENGAGEMENT AND REDUCING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM







A 2023 U.S. Department of Education report on 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)—local before-school, afterschool, and summer learning programs that serve more than 1.3 million students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools—found that:

7 IN 10 students in the program demonstrated an **IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN LEARNING**

NEARLY HALF of students who were **CHRONICALLY ABSENT** the previous year **IMPROVED THEIR SCHOOL-DAY ATTENDANCE**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ACCELERATE STUDENTS’ ACADEMIC GROWTH AND SUPPORT THEIR WELL-BEING

Massachusetts students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help **(70%)**
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities **(77%)**
-  Working on their reading and writing skills **(63%)**
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills **(86%)**
-  Taking part in physical activities **(85%)**
-  Building confidence **(81%)**



94% of Massachusetts parents are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Massachusetts parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs **(80%)**



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe **(86%)**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of Massachusetts parents favor public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs.



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

With strong public support, a national survey found that approximately 8 in 10 registered voters said that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity for their community (79%) and that they want their federal, state, and local leaders to provide more funding for programs (80%).

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

21st Century Community Learning Centers (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. The 2023 Department of Education annual performance report of 21st CCLC found that among regular participants:



MORE THAN 1 IN 2 improved their GPA



7 IN 10 improved their engagement in learning



2 IN 5 saw a decrease in school suspensions

In Massachusetts, 12,134 children in 130 communities take part in a 21st Century Community Learning Center. 21st CCLC grants are the only dedicated federal funding sources that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programming in Massachusetts is so great that more than 1 out of every 5 applications was not funded during the most recent competition.

AFTERSCHOOL WORKS

Studies have shown that students regularly participating in quality afterschool programs attend school more often, are more engaged in school, get better grades, and are more likely to be promoted to the next grade. For example, a 2023 evaluation of the 21st CCLC programs in Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the National Institute on Out-of-School Time at Wellesley College found that attendees showed growth in social-emotional learning skills and that these skills contribute to improved academic performance. According to teacher surveys, the majority of youth who participated in programming showed growth in their ability to think critically (65%), self-regulation (64%), engagement (61%), communication skills (59%), and perseverance (57%). Additionally, students that had higher ratings on their engagement in learning showed more growth on their ELA and math scores. The evaluators wrote that the "...results described in this report point to substantial significant contributions that the 21st CCLC programs have made to the academic achievement and youth development of the students served across the state during FY22."

