

This is Afterschool in Massachusetts

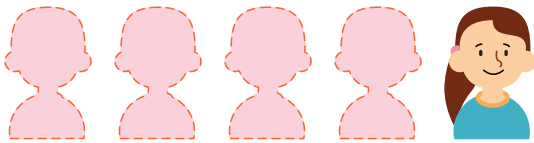


Massachusetts parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Massachusetts, approximately 524,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

Demand for Afterschool Programs in Massachusetts is Enormous



Nearly 4 in 5 Massachusetts children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support Massachusetts Children’s Learning and Development

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



Afterschool Works in Massachusetts

A 2024 evaluation of 21st CCLC programs conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the National Institute on Out-of-School Time at Wellesley College found that participants demonstrated growth in critical foundational skills. Teachers surveyed reported that a majority of participants improved their:

- ▲ Communication skills (**54%**)
- ▲ Critical thinking skills (**50%**)
- ▲ Engagement in learning (**56%**)
- ▲ Relationship with peers (**53%**)

Additionally, the evaluation found that students with higher ratings on skills such as communication, critical thinking, and engagement in learning showed more growth in their English language arts and math performance.

Massachusetts Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

88%

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



93%

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

Massachusetts parents report that their child's afterschool program:

75%

Helps them keep their job



89%

Leads to less stress



94%

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?

"We would have to adjust our work schedules—it would be hectic trying to juggle work hours, and I would probably have to work part-time instead of full-time."

— MASSACHUSETTS DAD

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 MASSACHUSETTS:

15,262
children are served by
a 21st CCLC program

121
communities
served

Demand for programming in Massachusetts is so great that **1 out of every 3** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Massachusetts After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/massachusetts/demand>.
2. Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. (2024). *21st Century Community Learning Centers program fiscal year 2023 year end report*.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by MA 21st 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

