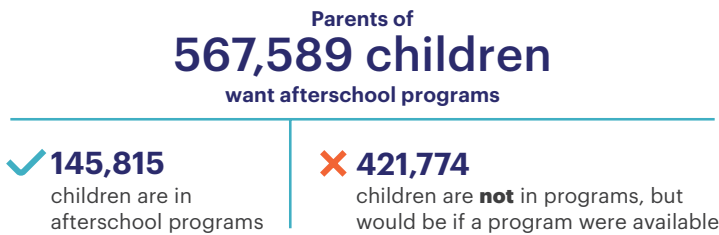


# This is Afterschool in Maryland

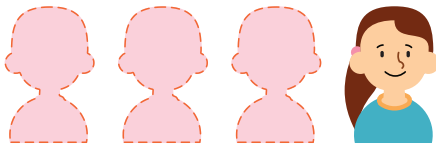


Maryland parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Maryland, more than 421,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

## Demand for Afterschool Programs in Maryland is Enormous



Approximately 3 in 4 Maryland children are missing out.






## Afterschool Programs Support Maryland Children's Learning and Development

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



## Afterschool Works in Maryland

In a 2024 U.S. Department of Education report on 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs nationally, Maryland students attending 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC afterschool programs saw both academic and behavioral improvements. Programs helped:

-  **Boost academic performance:** More than half of participants in 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade made gains on their state reading/language arts (58%) and math assessments (56%). Additionally, 62% of 7<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA below 3.0 demonstrated improvement.
-  **Reduce chronic absenteeism:** 65% of chronically absent students in the previous school year improved their school-day attendance.
-  **Improve engagement and behavior:** 83% of participants in grades 1 through 5 improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning, and 69% of 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students decreased their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.

# Maryland Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

89%

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



89%

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

Maryland parents report that their child's afterschool program:

77%

Helps them keep their job



88%

Leads to less stress



93%

Boosts productivity



Research has found that **every \$1 invested** in Maryland afterschool programs leads to a return on investment of **just over \$3** by:



Reducing student drop out rates



Increasing kids' earning potential as adults



Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



## If there were not an afterschool program available, what, if any impact would it have on your family?

"I feel it would impact my child as he would not have as many opportunities to learn new things and experience new activities."

— MARYLAND MOM

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) is the only federal funding dedicated to afterschool and summer programs, enabling states to award funds to local programs that meet community needs. 21<sup>st</sup> 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 MARYLAND:

**10,322**  
children are served by  
a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program

**175**  
communities  
served

Demand for programming in Maryland is so great that nearly **1 out of every 5** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

### Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Maryland After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/maryland/demand>.
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3. Maryland Out-of-School Time Network. (2013). *Expanding opportunities, improving lives: Maryland's out of school time programs*.
4. Maryland State Department of Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by MD 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)

