

This is Afterschool in Maine

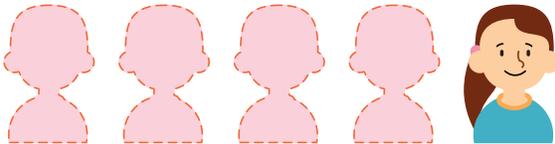


Maine parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Maine, more than 91,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

Demand for Afterschool Programs in Maine is Enormous



Approximately 4 in 5 Maine children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support Maine Children’s Learning and Development

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



Afterschool Works in Maine

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

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** Among 4th through 8th grade participants, 45% demonstrated improvement on the state’s reading/language arts assessment, and 59% made progress on the state’s math assessment.
- ▲ **Reduce chronic absenteeism:** 71% of students who were chronically absent the previous school year improved their school-day attendance.
- ▲ **Improve engagement and behavior:** 77% of 1st through 5th grade participants improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning, and 73% of students in grades 1 through 12 decreased their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.

Maine Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

86%

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

Maine parents report that their child's afterschool program:

72%

Helps them keep their job



85%

Leads to less stress



80%

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?

"My child has special needs. If there were no program, she wouldn't have an opportunity to meet other kids."

— MAINE 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 MAINE:

4,927
children are served by
a 21st CCLC program

57
communities
served

Demand for programming in Maine is so great that **1 out of every 4** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Maine After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/maine/demand>.
2. U.S. Department of Education. (2024). *21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) analytic support for evaluation and program monitoring: An overview of the 21st CCLC performance data: 2022-2023 (19th report)*. Washington, DC.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Maine Department of Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by ME 21st CCLCs, 2024-2025] [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

