



Afterschool Alliance

New England After 3 PM: Spotlight on Maine Afterschool and Summer in Maine: A View from the Principal's Office Summary of Findings

Note: All percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number and are based on the number of responses to each question.

1. For the purposes of this survey, afterschool programs are a coordinated offering of academic and enrichment activities, such as cooking, performing arts or robotics, that serve K-12 students, and operate 10 or more hours per week before and/or after school. Using that definition, does your school have an afterschool program?

33%	Yes
67%	No
>1%	Don't know

2. How many public, private and/or community partners does your school collaborate with to provide an afterschool program? (Reported only for those who responded "Yes" to question 1; they have an afterschool program available at their school)

25%	None
52%	1-2
13%	3-5
8%	5 or more
2%	Don't know

3. The Maine Department of Education receives federal afterschool funding called 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC). 21st CCLC grants are competitively awarded to local school/community partnerships to provide afterschool programs. In Maine, there are currently 129 schools serving more than 10,000 students through 21st CCLC. The purpose of 21st CCLC is to provide low-income and academically-challenged students with quality before and/or afterschool programming year-round. Prior to completing this survey, were you aware of the 21st CCLC program?

57%	Yes
43%	No

4. Does your school receive 21st CCLC funding?

16%	Yes
67%	No
17%	Don't know

5. As you may or may not know, President Bush has proposed a federal budget for 2009 that would cut 21st CCLC by 26 percent from the current level, a decrease of approximately \$1.378

million in Maine. Based on your knowledge, do you think the federal government is doing all it should to meet the need for afterschool programs in your community?

- 6% Yes
- 72% No
- 16% No opinion
- 6% Don't know

6. Based on your knowledge, do you think the Maine state government is doing all it should to meet the need for afterschool programs in your community?

- 7% Yes
- 75% No
- 13% No opinion
- 6% Don't know

7. Thinking about afterschool programs, would you say that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity?

- 56% Yes, strongly agree
- 32% Yes, somewhat agree
- 8% Neither agree nor disagree
- 3% No, somewhat disagree
- 0% No, strongly disagree

8. For the purposes of this survey, summer programs are a coordinated offering of academic, enrichment and recreational activities held during the summer season. Using that definition, does your school have a summer program?

- 57% Yes
- 43% No
- 0% Don't know

9. How many public, private, and/or community partners does your school collaborate with to provide summer programs? (Reported only for those who responded "Yes" to question 8; they have a summer program available at their school)

- 37% None
- 49% 1-2
- 8% 3-5
- 3% 5 or more
- 4% Don't know

10. In your opinion, what should be the primary focus of a high-quality summer program?

- 18% Academic improvement
- 5% Enrichment and recreational activities
- 76% Combination of academic and enrichment/recreational activities
- 2% Other

11. Are there students attending your school who would benefit from participating in a summer program who are not currently participating?

- 67% Yes, many more students would benefit if programs were available
- 27% Yes, a small number of students would benefit if programs were available
- 3% No, there are no students who want or need access who are not currently participating
- 4% Don't know

12. In your opinion, how important is it for summer programs to offer the following activities?

Academic support such as tutoring or remedial classes

- >1% Not important
- >1% Somewhat unimportant
- 0% Neither important nor unimportant
- 14% Somewhat important
- 85% Very important

Enrichment such as creative/performing arts

- 3% Not important
- 3% Somewhat unimportant
- 8% Neither important nor unimportant
- 43% Somewhat important
- 43% Very important

Recreational sports and exercise

- 2% Not important
- 4% Somewhat unimportant
- 8% Neither important nor unimportant
- 38% Somewhat important
- 47% Very important

Hands-on learning such as building an electric car

- 4% Not important
- 4% Somewhat unimportant
- 12% Neither important nor unimportant
- 42% Somewhat important
- 38% Very important

Life Skills

- 2% Not important
- 3% Somewhat unimportant
- 14% Neither important nor unimportant
- 42% Somewhat important
- 40% Very important

13. Some people say that making good use of summer months truly has the potential to level the playing field for American children. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- 39% Strongly agree

- 49% Somewhat agree
- 7% Neither agree nor disagree
- 4% Somewhat disagree
- 2% Strongly disagree

14. In terms of funding for summer programs, my school has:

- 0% More than enough funding to meet demand
- 16% Enough funding to meet demand
- 51% Not enough funding to meet demand
- 30% No funding
- 3% Don't know how much funding my school has for summer programs

15. In terms of funding for summer programs in comparison to five years ago, my school now has:

- 3% Much more funding
- 9% Somewhat more funding
- 26% Same amount of funding
- 15% Somewhat less funding
- 22% Much less funding
- 25% Don't know how much funding my school has for summer programs compared to five years ago

16. In your opinion, is it important for all children and youth to have access to quality, affordable summer programs available to them?

- 72% Yes, very important
- 24% Yes, somewhat important
- 3% Neither important nor unimportant
- 1% No, somewhat unimportant
- 0% No, not important

17. In your own words, why are summer programs important or not important? (open-ended)

Many of the written responses clustered around the need for structured time in the summer to either prevent regression of skills or improve upon the skills that have already been attained. Opinions were evenly split with nearly a third of the 114 open-ended responses saying preventing regression is one reason why summer programs are important and roughly the same number saying that summer programs are needed for support and improvement of existing skills.

Other common themes that emerged include:

- Providing additional enrichment such as drama, music or dance;
- Leveling the playing field, or providing access to enrichment and learning opportunities where they currently are limited;
- Providing needed physical activity, recreation, exercise and fitness;
- Keeping kids busy, involved, safe, supervised and away from negative behavior and bad influences;

- Exposing kids to positive relationships with adults and peers; and
- Keeping kids connected to school by providing healthy, meaningful, interesting and engaging opportunities.

18. Is your school public, private, charter or other?

97%	Public
2%	Private
0%	Charter
1%	Other

19. How would you describe the area where your school is located—rural, suburban or urban?

72%	Rural
18%	Suburban
10%	Urban

20. What grade levels does your school serve? (open-ended)

Note: Respondents serve varying ranges of grade levels within the PreK-12 system. Percentages below add up to more than 100% because some schools serve K-12, 7-12, or some other combination of elementary, middle and high school.

81%	Some or all of grades PreK-8
31%	9-12

The Afterschool Alliance worked with the Maine Afterschool Network in cooperation with the Maine Principals' Association to survey K-12 principals in the state. The survey, distributed via the Internet in May 2008, asked Maine school principals their views on school-based afterschool and summer programs in their communities and the role these programs play in supporting student success. The Afterschool Alliance received responses from 194 school principals, representing more than one-third of the 525 principals contacted through the Maine Principals' Association. All responses are voluntary and anonymous.