After the school day ends in North Carolina, 1 in 5 kids are alone and unsupervised. These hours—from 2 to 6 p.m.—are the peak time for juvenile crime in North Carolina according to the latest report by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a national organization of law enforcement leaders. Afterschool programs turn that time of risk into opportunity. They keep kids safe and help them realize their full potential.

Nationwide, 9 in 10 adults say afterschool programs are important to their community, yet more than 19 million kids are waiting to get in. Fortunately for the 234,908 children in afterschool programs in North Carolina, the hours after school are a time when programs help kids get excited about learning, attend school more often, get better grades, and build foundational skills, like communication, teamwork, and problem solving.

**Inspiring Learning**

- 65% of North Carolina parents agree that afterschool programs help their kids get excited about learning.
- 65% of North Carolina parents agree afterschool programs can help kids gain STEM-related interests and skills.
- 62% of North Carolina parents agree afterschool programs help kids gain teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking skills.
- 57% of North Carolina parents agree that afterschool programs help students improve school day attendance.

**Keeping Kids Safe and Supported**

- 75% of North Carolina parents believe afterschool programs reduce the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.
- 75% of North Carolina parents agree that afterschool programs provide access to caring adults and mentors.

**Unmet Demand for Afterschool in North Carolina**

For every North Carolina student in afterschool, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

**21st Century Community Learning Center grants are the only dedicated federal funding source that support local communities’ afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programs is so great in North Carolina that 1 out of every 2 applications cannot be funded.**

In a 2019 evaluation of North Carolina’s 21st CCLC programs by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, surveyed teachers reported approximately 5 in 6 elementary (84%), middle (86%), and high school (88%) students regularly participating in programs improved their homework completion and class participation. A majority of elementary (68%), middle (74%), and high school (84%) students also improved their behavior.
A Lifeline for Working Families

Families across America report that the gap between work and school schedules can be up to 25 hours per week. Parents lose 8 days of work, and businesses lose up to $300 billion a year due to parental concerns about afterschool care.

- 80% of North Carolina parents say afterschool programs give them peace of mind.
- 80% of North Carolina parents agree afterschool programs help them keep their jobs.

Afterschool provides a solid return on investment. Research spanning several states shows that every $1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least $3 by:

1. Increasing kids’ earning potential
2. Improving kids’ performance at school
3. Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

“In very much fed off of the kindness I received from the group leaders at Boys & Girls Club. As a result, I’m probably going to be teaching and combining my love for music with my teaching. Afterschool is about having options and getting to experiment with all those different things to figure out what it is that you really want.”

Jazmyne McNair
Graduate of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lawrence, a 21st CCLC site in Lawrence, KS