Afterschool Alliance

New England After 3 PM: Spotlight on New Hampshire
Survey of New Hampshire Superintendents and Principals
Summary of Findings

Throughout the survey, "afterschool programs" refers to programs that serve school-age children and youth, include a combination of academic and enrichment activities, and operate 12 or more hours per week. Afterschool programs may operate during a variety of hours when school is not in session, including before school, after school, weekends, summers and holidays. Afterschool programs for older youth include a coordinated offering of enrichment activities and academic support to help prepare them for college and the workforce.

If you are a superintendent, all references to "school/community" and "school" refer to your school district.

All percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

1. Is your school an elementary, middle or high school?

> 47%   Elementary School
> 12%   Middle School/Junior High School
> 17%   High School
> 17%   I am a superintendent of schools
> 8%   Other

2. Thinking about children and teens in your school/community, how concerned are you about children and teens being alone and unsupervised in the after school hours?

> 50%   Very Concerned
> 28%   Concerned
> 21%   Somewhat Concerned
> 2%   Not Concerned
> 0%   Don't Know

3. Thinking about children and the hours after school, would you say that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity in your community? [Note: Afterschool programs for older youth include a coordinated offering of enrichment activities and academic support to help prepare them for college and the workforce.]

> 65%   Yes Strongly Agree
> 31%   Yes Somewhat Agree
> 4%   No Somewhat Disagree
> 0%   No Strongly Disagree
> 1%   Don't Know

4. Does your school offer an on-site afterschool program?

       70% Yes
       30% No

  If Yes, skip to question 7.

5. What is the top barrier preventing your school from offering an afterschool program? **Pick no more than three.**

       27% Lack of resources for programs outside of the regular school day
       17% Lack of community partners or educators available to run a program
       17% Lack of demand from parents and/or students
       11% Lack of grant opportunities to support afterschool programs
       11% Lack of transportation
       9%   Other
       8%   No need for an on-site program. Students attend programs that run outside the school.
       0%   Federal and/or state policies have increasingly shifted financial resources toward other priorities designed specifically to improve test scores and meet standards.
       0%   Lack of support from the school district

6. Would you like to have an afterschool program available at your school?

       84% Yes
       16% No

7. Are there students at your school who would benefit from participating in an afterschool program who are not currently participating?

       94% Yes
       6%   No

  If No, skip to question 9.

8. What would you say are the top barriers preventing students from participating? **Pick no more than three.**

       58%   Lack of transportation home
       36%   Lack of interest from the students
       35%   Parents unable to pay fees
       28%   Middle school/high school youth need to work or take care of younger siblings
       20%   Other
       18%   Lack of knowledge about the program or afterschool
       17%   Lack of available slots in the program
       16%   Students' negative perception of the program
       6%   Not all children in one family are able to attend the program

9. Federal funding for schools and community partners to run afterschool programs has eroded from 2002 to 2007. As a result, afterschool programs across the country are reducing services and/or hours or closing their doors. Do you think that the federal government is doing all it should to meet the need for afterschool programs in your community?

      4%   Yes
      70% No
      21% Not Sure
      5%   Don't Know

10. Do you think the New Hampshire state government is doing all it should to meet the need for afterschool programs in your community?

      4%   Yes
      64% No
      28% Not Sure
      5%   Don't Know

11. Does your school have more than enough, enough or not enough resources to run afterschool programs?

      1%   More than enough
      26% Enough
      73% Not enough

12. Compared to five years ago, does your school have more or less resources devoted to afterschool programs for students?

      12% Much More
      20% Somewhat More
      30% Same Amount
      13% Somewhat Less
      10% Much Less
      14% Don't Know

13. How concerned would you be if existing programs had to close their doors in your school/community?

      74% Very Concerned
      15% Concerned
      7%   Somewhat Concerned
      2%   Not Concerned
      3%   Don't Know

14. Studies show that children in afterschool programs are more likely to attend school regularly, turn in homework on time and improve their grades and test scores compared to similar students who do not participate. These students are more likely to be engaged in the classroom and are less likely to drop out. School districts across the country that have included afterschool as part of their education reform efforts have been successful in boosting student achievement. Do you **strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree,** or **strongly disagree** with this statement.

61%   Strongly Agree
35%   Somewhat Agree
1%   Somewhat Disagree
0%   Strongly Disagree
4%   Don't Know

15. Which of the following outcomes do you associate with participation in afterschool programs? **Check all that apply.**

82%   Increased homework completion
72%   Improved grades
65%   Improved student behavior and attitude in the classroom
65%   Increased school day attendance
64%   Increased interest in school
46%   Improved teacher satisfaction with student behavior and performance in the classroom
37%   Increased test scores
8%   Other
3%   None of the above

If your school does not have an afterschool program, skip to question 17.

16. What types of the following activities/services are offered in your school's afterschool program? **Check all that apply.**

90%   Tutoring/academic support/homework assistance
81%   Recreational sports/activities
64%   Creative/performance arts
43%   Personal/social/life skills development
34%   Community service/service learning
32%   Health and nutrition education
23%   Mentoring
20%   Family strengthening/involvement
18%   Leadership skills/training
15%   Courses for credit and/or credit recovery
15%   Other
11%   Career development
11%   Substance abuse prevention/intervention
8%   Gang violence and prevention
6%   College exploration/application/scholarship/other support
1%   Pregnancy prevention

Thinking specifically about high school youth, please answer the following questions.

17. In your opinion, what do older youth in your school/community need the most from a quality afterschool program? **Check no more than three.**

58%   Tutoring/academic support/homework assistance
50%   Alternative learning/credit attainment or recovery
38%   Recreational sports/activities
37%   Personal/social/life skills development
33%   Community service/service learning

30%   Leadership skills/training
30%   Mentoring
29%   Career development
29%   Creative/performance arts
26%   College exploration/application/scholarship/other support
22%   Substance abuse prevention/intervention
20%   Family strengthening/involvement
15%   Health and Nutrition education
8%   Gang/violence prevention
7%   Pregnancy prevention
4%   Other

18. How important is it for older youth to have a safe haven and a coordinated offering of enriching activities, such as those listed above, available to them after school?

66%   Very Important
33%   Important
1%   Not Very Important
0%   Not Important

19. In thinking about afterschool opportunities for credit towards graduation, what do you see as the primary barriers? **Check all that apply.**

44%   Lack of established policies describing the process of approval
44%   Lack of extended learning opportunities in the community
43%   Lack of time to coordinate a program
36%   Lack of systems to demonstrate the mastery of required course competencies
27%   Not sure
19%   Lack of professional development systems

20. In thinking about afterschool opportunities for credit towards graduation, what do you see as the primary advantages? **Check all that apply.**

78%   Engaging student interests
60%   Personalization of learning
57%   Engaging student learning styles
56%   Involvement of youth in the community
42%   Harnessing of local resources
24%   Empowering teachers as learning facilitators
10%   Not Sure
2%   Other

The Afterschool Alliance worked with PlusTime New Hampshire in cooperation with the New Hampshire Department of Education to survey public school superintendents and K-12 principals throughout the state. The survey, distributed via the Internet in September 2007, asked education leaders their views on children and older youth in their communities and the role afterschool programs can play in supporting children and families in and out of the classroom. The Afterschool Alliance received responses from 214 education leaders, representing more than two out of five of the 500 public school leaders we were able to contact.