Inspiring Learning. Safe and Supportive. Lifeline for Working Families.

# This is Afterschool in New Jersey

Afterschool Alliance March 2020

After the school day ends in New Jersey, 1 in 5 kids are alone and unsupervised. These hours-from 2 to 6 p.m.-are the peak time for juvenile crime nationally 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 231,279 children in afterschool programs in New Jersey, 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**

- 59% of New Jersey parents agree that afterschool
  - programs help their kids get excited about learning.
  - 62% of New Jersey parents agree afterschool programs can help kids gain STEM-related interests and skills.

64% of New Jersey parents agree afterschool programs help kids gain teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking skills.

55% of New Jersey parents agree that afterschool programs help students improve school day attendance.

# **Keeping Kids Safe and Supported**

74% of New Jersey parents believe afterschool programs reduce the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.



# **Unmet Demand for Afterschool** in New Jersey

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



21<sup>st</sup> 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 New Jersey that 2 out of every **5** applications cannot be funded.

A 2019 evaluation of New Jersey's 21st CCLC afterschool programs by the American Institutes for Research found that students attending programs at high levels had lower unexcused school day absences compared to non-attendees. Additionally, among students surveyed, an overwhelming majority reported that the program helped them find out what they are good at (86%), learn things that help them in school (85%), and gain confidence (83%).

# 21st Century Community Learning Centers

In New Jersey, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers—local afterschool, before-school and summer learning programs that serve students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools—provide services for 13,657 kids and 187 communities.

In a nationwide study of students who regularly attend a Community Learning Center, teachers report that:



**1 in 2** improved their math and Language Arts grades



More than 2 in 3 improved their homework completion and class participation



More than 3 in 5 improved their behavior in class

Community Learning Centers bring together diverse partners to meet community needs. A typical program receives \$67,000 from partners to supplement its federal funding. Nationwide, partner contributions totaled more than \$1 billion between 2006 and 2010.

# **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.

- 78% of New Jersey parents say afterschool programs give them peace of mind.
- 73% of New Jersey 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:



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Increasing kids' earning potential

- Improving kids' performance at school
- 3 Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



#### **Jazmyne McNair**

Graduate of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lawrence, a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC site in Lawrence, KS

This is Afterschool



The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. Learn more at: <u>www.afterschoolalliance.org</u>

Helping kids realize their full potential.