

# This is Afterschool in New Mexico



New Mexico 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 New Mexico, more than 155,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

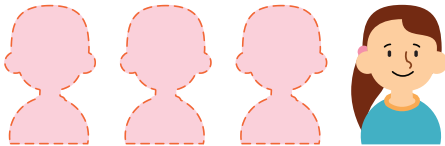
## Demand for Afterschool Programs in New Mexico is Enormous

Parents of **201,610** children want afterschool programs

✓ **46,281** children are in afterschool programs

✗ **155,329** children are **not** in programs, but would be if a program were available

More than 3 in 4 New Mexico children are missing out.



## Afterschool Programs Support New Mexico Children’s Learning and Development

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



## Afterschool Works in New Mexico

A 2025 statewide evaluation of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs found that programs helped:

- Boost academic performance:** Participants increased their average math and English language arts grades from the first to last quarter of the school year. Additionally, a majority of elementary and middle/high school students agreed that their program helped them do better in school (67% and 65%).
- Improve engagement:** Among students in need of improvement, most 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade participants made gains in their class participation (80%), attentiveness in class (78%), and motivation to learn (79%).
- Build confidence and social skills:** Elementary and middle/high school participants reported that programs helped them feel better about themselves (73% and 68%) and make new friends (78% and 74%).

# New Mexico Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

87%

Agree that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs.



92%

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

New Mexico parents report that their child's afterschool program:

87%

Helps them keep their job



98%

Leads to less stress



96%

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?

"Without an afterschool program, it would create challenges for our family in terms of childcare, work schedules, and ensuring a safe, structured environment for our child after school."

— NEW MEXICO DAD

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) is the only federal funding dedicated to afterschool and summer programs, enabling states to award funds to local programs that meet community needs. 21<sup>st</sup> 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 NEW MEXICO:

**9,549**  
children are served by  
a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program

**115**  
communities  
served

### Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *New Mexico After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/new-mexico/demand>.
2. Boren, R., te Duits, D., Heredia, E., & Mathis, A. (2025). SOAR 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC statewide evaluation end of year report AY 24-25. New Mexico State University SOAR Evaluation and Policy Center.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. New Mexico Public Education Department. (2026). [Number of children and communities served by NM 21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs, 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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)

