



Credit: Photo by Allison Shelley for EDUimages

This is Afterschool in Ohio

In Ohio, Symmes Valley Schools used American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds for an afterschool program for its kindergarten through 8th grade students. The program ran three days a week and included an academic component taught by school-day teachers and a component where students were able to choose their preferred activity, which included crafts, letter writing, physical education, and coding. The program provided students snacks and transportation and brought in community partners, such as 4-H, high school students, and the local library. A parent survey showed the program had been well-received, and the school has seen increases in test and spelling scores.

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many Ohio youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In Ohio, for every child in an afterschool program, 5 more would participate if a program were available. And a national fall 2023 survey of afterschool program providers found that nearly 3 in 4 are concerned about their program's long-term funding and future. Afterschool and summer programs across Ohio are accelerating students' growth, supporting students' well-being, and helping working families. To keep their doors open, these programs need additional investments at the local, state, and federal levels.

IMPROVING SCHOOL-DAY ENGAGEMENT AND REDUCING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM







A 2023 U.S. Department of Education report on 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)—local before-school, afterschool, and summer learning programs that serve more than 1.3 million students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools—found that:

7 IN 10 students in the program demonstrated an **IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN LEARNING**

NEARLY HALF of students who were **CHRONICALLY ABSENT** the previous year **IMPROVED THEIR SCHOOL-DAY ATTENDANCE**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ACCELERATE STUDENTS' ACADEMIC GROWTH AND SUPPORT THEIR WELL-BEING

Ohio students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (74%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (70%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (67%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (91%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (82%)
-  Building confidence (81%)



92% of Ohio parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Ohio parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs (**76%**)



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe (**80%**)

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of Ohio parents favor public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs.



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

With strong public support, a national survey found that approximately 8 in 10 registered voters said that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity for their community (79%) and that they want their federal, state, and local leaders to provide more funding for programs (80%).

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st 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. The 2023 Department of Education annual performance report of 21st CCLC found that among regular participants:



MORE THAN 1 IN 2 improved their GPA



7 IN 10 improved their engagement in learning



2 IN 5 saw a decrease in school suspensions

In Ohio, 21,646 children in 270 communities take part in a 21st Century Community Learning Center. 21st CCLC grants are the only dedicated federal funding sources that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programming in Ohio is so great that more than 1 out of every 3 applications was not funded during the most recent competition.

AFTERSCHOOL WORKS

Studies have shown that students regularly participating in quality afterschool programs attend school more often, are more engaged in school, get better grades, and are more likely to be promoted to the next grade. For example, a 2023 evaluation by Evaluation Services Center at the University of Cincinnati found that students attending Ohio's 21st CCLC programs saw improvements in their school-day attendance, academic performance, and career competencies and college readiness. Among students who had an attendance rate at or below 90% the previous year, 62% saw an improvement in their school-day attendance. Additionally, approximately 3 in 10 students in the program improved their reading (32%) and math scores (28%) on Ohio's statewide assessments, moving from "basic" or "limited proficiency" to "proficient" or above. Regarding college and career readiness, 1 in 3 programs serving middle and high school students (33%) reported student growth in career competencies and college readiness. In a 2020 evaluation by the American Institutes for Research, a statistically significant positive impact of participation on academic outcomes was found, with regular program participants scoring higher on math and English language arts assessments compared with similar non-participating youth. Based on youth surveys, a large majority of students agreed that their program has helped them learn things that will be important for their future (80%) and in school (79%), find out what is important to them (77%), and improve their confidence (75%).