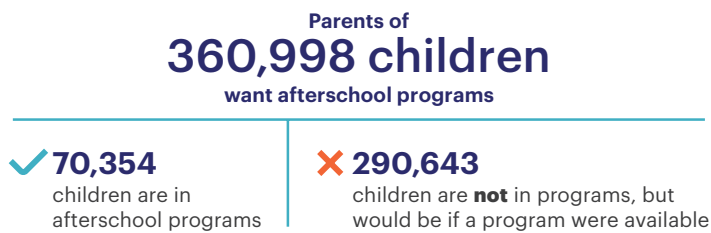


# This is Afterschool in Oklahoma

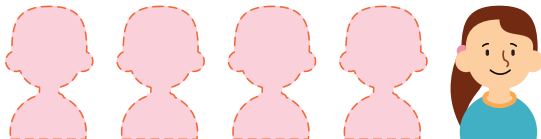


Oklahoma parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Oklahoma, more than 290,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

## Demand for Afterschool Programs in Oklahoma is Enormous



Approximately 4 in 5 Oklahoma children are missing out.



## Afterschool Programs Support Oklahoma Children's Learning and Development

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



## Afterschool Works in Oklahoma

A 2023 evaluation of Oklahoma's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs found that participation in the program helped:

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** Approximately 9 in 10 students improved their state assessment scores in math (92%) and reading (87%). Additionally, 63% of 7<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade participants with a GPA below 3.0 the previous year achieved a higher GPA.
- ▲ **Reduce chronic absenteeism:** 76% of chronically absent students improved their school-day attendance.
- ▲ **Improve engagement:** Most students surveyed agreed that the program helped them to get their work done on time (90%), try new things (89%), and provided activities that make them think (84%).

Additionally, the evaluation found that students attending more regularly generally saw greater academic gains.

# Oklahoma Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

82%

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



90%

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

Oklahoma parents report that their child's afterschool program:

79%

Helps them keep their job



100%

Leads to less stress



92%

Boosts productivity



Research has found that **every \$1 invested** in Oklahoma afterschool programs leads to a return on investment of **approximately \$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?**

"I think it would add to more screen time, and our child wouldn't have as many social interactions."

— OKLAHOMA 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 OKLAHOMA:

**16,350**  
children are served by  
a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program

**97**  
communities  
served

Demand for programming in Oklahoma is so great that **3 out of every 5** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

### Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Oklahoma After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/oklahoma/demand>.
2. The David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality. (2023). *Evaluating Oklahoma's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers: 2021-2022 statewide evaluation report*. The Forum for Youth Investment.
3. Oklahoma Afterschool Network. (2011). *ROI: economic return on investment in afterschool*.
4. Oklahoma State Department of Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by OK 21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs, FY2024-2025] [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)



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