

Afterschool Works for Students, Families, and the Economy

June 2017

PENNSYLVANIA



Afterschool boosts student success, keeps kids safe, and helps parents keep their jobs. The demand for afterschool and summer learning opportunities far exceeds the supply and too many young people are being left out.

11,512 communities nationwide benefit from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative, including 462 communities that serve 39,932 students across the state of Pennsylvania. This initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to afterschool and summer programs that keep young people engaged and on track for high school graduation, college, and careers.

Afterschool works for students

Students participating in quality afterschool programs attend school more often, do better in school, and are more likely to graduate.

- ▶ Students improve their grades and test scores and make gains that help narrow the achievement gap between students from high- and low-income families.
- ▶ A statewide evaluation of Pennsylvania's 21st CCLC programs found that students who regularly attended the program made academic gains and saw improvements in their behavior. Among regularly attending students, 44% improved their reading grade and 43% improved their math grade from fall to spring. Based on teacher reports, 47% of regular program attendees improved their in-school behavior, 56% improved homework outcomes, and 31% improved their school day attendance. Additionally, parents and students reported that they were both overwhelming "very satisfied" with their, or their child's, experience in the program.
- ▶ A nationwide study of students who regularly attend 21st Century Community Learning Centers found:
 - ✓ 65% improved their class participation and homework completion
 - ✓ 57% improved their classroom behavior
 - ✓ nearly half improved their math and Language Arts grades

Pennsylvania Needs More Afterschool

For every **Pennsylvania student** in afterschool, **3 more would participate** if a program were available.


Enrolled:
321,296 students




Waiting:
811,954 students


**Afterschool
Alliance**

afterschoolalliance.org

Afterschool works for families



85% of Pennsylvania parents support public funding for afterschool programs.



74% of Pennsylvania parents say afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs.



73% of Pennsylvania parents believe afterschool reduces the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.

Afterschool works for the economy

- ▶ On-the-job productivity drops when parents are worried about their kids in the after school hours. This costs U.S. businesses up to \$300 billion per year.
- ▶ STEM jobs are among the fastest-growing and highest-paying jobs in America. In Pennsylvania, 66% of parents report that their kids have STEM learning opportunities in their afterschool program and 62% agree that afterschool programs can help children gain STEM-related interests and skills.
- ▶ Afterschool provides a solid return on investment. Research shows that every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by:
 - ✓ Increasing kids' earning potential
 - ✓ Improving kids' performance at school
 - ✓ Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

21st Century Community Learning Centers

bring together diverse partners to meet the needs of the communities they serve. Partners of each grantee contribute an average of \$67,000 to support programs. Between 2006 and 2010, partner contributions totaled more than \$1 billion.

Nationally, children attend Community Learning Center programs in:

- ▶ Public school districts: 9,446
- ▶ Community based organizations: 1,125
- ▶ Charter schools: 463
- ▶ Faith-based organizations: 160

Afterschool works, but not all kids can benefit

In Pennsylvania, 1 out of every 2 applications for 21st Century Community Learning Centers cannot be funded, leaving communities without the supports they need for children and youth in the hours after school and during the summer.

