

Afterschool Fostering Student Success in Pennsylvania



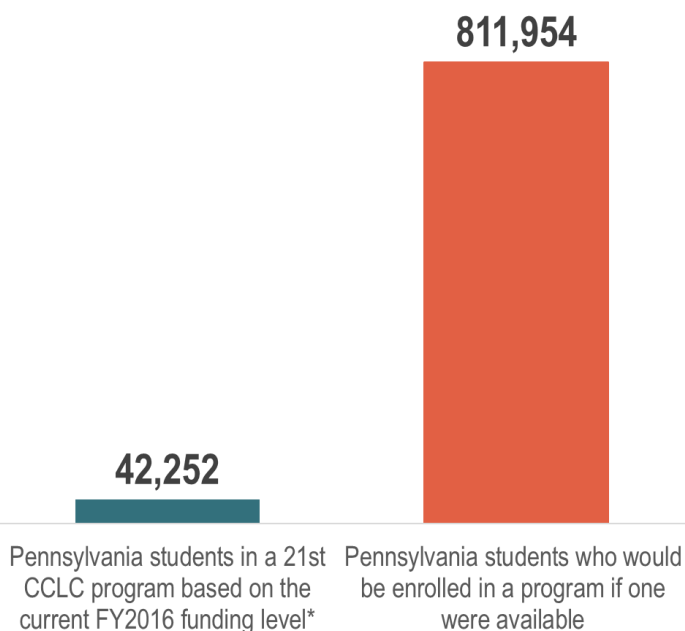
MAY 2016

In Pennsylvania, afterschool programs are keeping students safe, inspiring them to learn and supporting Pennsylvania's working families. Yet 346,458 school-age children (18 percent) in Pennsylvania are alone and unsupervised during the hours after school. More than a decade of research confirms that quality afterschool programs are providing rich learning experiences for students, helping to narrow existing opportunity and achievement gaps, and positioning students toward a bright future as they move through school, career and life.

The challenge.

The need for afterschool programs far exceeds the funding available in Pennsylvania:

In Pennsylvania, the 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs. Investments in 21st CCLC programs are keeping children in high-poverty, low-performing schools safe and supported; engaging them in interest-driven, academically enriching activities; and providing peace of mind to working families. However, the number of Pennsylvania students who would be enrolled in an afterschool program if one were available to them far outweighs the number of students who attend a 21st CCLC program, due in large part to limited federal funding for programs.



The Need for Afterschool in Pennsylvania:

811,954 students in Pennsylvania would participate in an afterschool program if one were available to them (50%).

346,458 students are on their own during the hours after school in Pennsylvania (18%).

The Current State of Afterschool in Pennsylvania:

321,296 students participate in an afterschool program (17%).

42,252* students participate in a 21st CCLC program—programs that serve children living in high-poverty areas and attending low-performing schools.

198 21st CCLC grantees are in Pennsylvania.

655 communities are served by a 21st CCLC program in Pennsylvania.

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

A statewide evaluation of Pennsylvania's 21st CCLC programs found that, based on teacher surveys, students regularly participating in the programs made improvements in their engagement in school, academics and behavior. Among students who needed to improve in the following respective areas, 67% improved academically, 58% improved their class attentiveness and 52% improved their classroom behavior. (*Pennsylvania Department of Education, 2015*)

*This figure is an Afterschool Alliance calculation based on the state-allocated 21st CCLC funding and a program cost of \$1,000 per child. The program cost per child is an Afterschool Alliance estimation based on the Department of Education's per-student expenditures for: (1) all students attending 21st CCLC programs and (2) students who regularly attend 21st CCLC programs.

Why afterschool? Research shows that quality afterschool programs are:



Improving engagement in school and conduct at school

A meta-analysis of 68 afterschool studies found that students in high-quality afterschool programs attended school more often and showed improvements in their behavior compared to students not enrolled in programs. Another study spanning 35 quality afterschool programs found that students regularly participating in programs saw improvements in their work habits, demonstrated higher levels of persistence and saw reductions in reports of misconduct, such as skipping school. (*Weissberg, R.P., Durlak, J. and Pachan, M., 2010; Vandell, D.L., Reisner, E.R. and Pierce, K.M., 2007*)



Increasing academic achievement

In addition to an evaluation of 21st CCLC programs that shows that more than 1 in 3 21st CCLC students made gains in their math and English grades, a study of outcomes associated with participation in afterschool programs found that students regularly participating during the elementary school years narrowed the math achievement gap at grade five between students from high-income and low-income families. (*Department of Education, 2015; Auger, A., Pierce, K.M. and Vandell, D.L., 2013*)



Immersing students in STEM

STEM programming is becoming widespread in afterschool. In Pennsylvania, 66 percent of parents report that their child has STEM learning opportunities in their afterschool program and 62 percent of parents agree that afterschool programs can help children gain STEM-related interests and skills. (*Afterschool Alliance, 2015*)



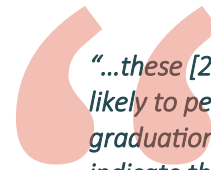
Promoting health and wellness

A national household survey commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance found that 74 percent of parents in Pennsylvania reported that their child's afterschool program serves snacks and/or meals and 76 percent said that it offers opportunities for physical activity. (*Afterschool Alliance, 2014*)



Supporting working families

Researchers report that parental concerns about afterschool care cost businesses up to \$300 billion per year in decreased worker productivity. In Pennsylvania, 74 percent of parents surveyed agree that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs. (*Catalyst and Brandeis University, 2006; Afterschool Alliance, 2014*)



"...these [21st CCLC] students are more likely to persist to high school graduation. The data and performance indicate that this broad reaching program [21st CCLC] touches students' lives in ways that will have far reaching academic impact."

- U. S. Department of Education, *An Overview of the 21st CCLC Performance Data, 2015*

The Child Care and Development Fund:

Fiscal year 2016 funding for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)—which provides vouchers or subsidies for low-income parents to pay for child care, including preschool, before-school, afterschool and summer care for children up to age 12—was \$5.68 billion. President Obama's most recent 2017 budget proposes \$82 billion over 10 years in mandatory funding to CCDF and an additional \$200 million to help states transition to the law's updated requirements, many of which go into effect this fall.

Total FY2016 CCDF funds in Pennsylvania:
\$300,947,102

Federal Share:
\$197,431,190

Percentage of children receiving subsidies who are school age in Pennsylvania:
38%