



Afterschool Alliance

New England After 3 PM: Spotlight on Rhode Island Summary of Findings

1. What concerns do you have about children and teens in your community during the hours after school today?

Most frequently expressed concerns:

Safety, not enough activities after school, idle time leading to risky or negative behavior, lack of supervision

2. Thinking about children and teens in your community, how concerned are you about children and teens being alone and unsupervised in the afterschool hours?

61% I Rank it as one of the Top Three Concerns [1-3]
13% I Rank it as one of the Top Five Concerns [4-5]
17% I Rank it as one of the Top Ten Concerns [6-10]
0% It's Not a Concern
9% Don't Know

3. Thinking about children and the hours after school, would you say that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity in your community?

57% Yes Strongly Agree
35% Yes Somewhat Agree
9% No Somewhat Disagree
0% No Strongly Disagree
0% Don't Know

4. Do you think that the federal government is doing all it should to meet the need for afterschool programs in your community?

9% Yes
78% No
13% Not Sure/Don't Know

5. Do you think the Rhode Island state government is doing all it should to meet the need for afterschool programs in your community?

9% Yes
78% No
13% Not Sure/Don't Know

6. Do you think there are more than enough, enough, or not enough afterschool programs available for children and teens in your community today?

0% More Than Enough
 26% Enough
 65% Not Enough
 9% Don't Know

7. Does your municipality's budget include spending on afterschool programs?

61% Yes
 30% No
 9% Don't Know

8. Compared to five years ago, what is your municipality spending on afterschool programs for children and youth this year?

0% Much More
 46% Somewhat More
 36% Same Amount
 0% Somewhat Less
 5% Much Less
 14% Don't Know

How important are the following reasons to allocate resources to afterschool programs in your community? (Answer for Questions 9-13)

9. Keeping kids safe and out of trouble. The hours between 3 and 6 pm are the peak hours for juvenile crime, youth victimization and experimentation with drugs, alcohol and sex. Children and youth who regularly attend high-quality afterschool programs have lower incidences of drug-use, violence and pregnancy than similar teens who do not participate in programs.

65% Very Important
 26% Important
 4% Somewhat Important
 4% Not as Important

10. Providing academic support. Children in afterschool programs are more likely to attend school regularly, turn in homework on time and improve their grades and test scores compared to similar students who do not participate. These students are more likely to be engaged in the classroom and are less likely to drop out. School districts across the country that have included afterschool as part of their education reform efforts have been successful in boosting student achievement.

48% Very Important
 39% Important
 9% Somewhat Important
 4% Not as Important

11. Helping working families by providing afterschool care for children. Not having afterschool care causes parents stress and leads to an average of eight missed work days per year. These parents are more frequently interrupted by non-work issues, make more errors, turn down requests to work overtime, and miss meetings because of non-work issues. It is estimated that this parent stress costs businesses between \$50 billion and \$300 billion annually in lost job productivity.

44%	Very Important
44%	Important
9%	Somewhat Important
4%	Not as Important

12. Providing extended learning time for children and youth. By linking activities to the school day curriculum, engaging youth in hands-on learning and providing homework help and tutoring, afterschool programs help kids succeed in and out of the classroom. These programs provide opportunities to explore art, music, science and technology, develop new skill sets and enhance social and emotional well-being.

44%	Very Important
35%	Important
9%	Somewhat Important
13%	Not as Important

13. Investing in afterschool is cost effective. A study conducted by the Rose Institute at Claremont McKenna College finds that for every dollar invested in afterschool programs, the potential savings to tax payers is \$3.

46%	Very Important
32%	Important
9%	Somewhat Important
14%	Not as Important

14. Federal funding for afterschool is eroding and as a result afterschool programs across the country are struggling to meet the need, reducing services and/or hours and closing their doors. Would people in your community like to see the federal investment in afterschool programs grow?

77%	Yes
5%	No
18%	Not Sure/Don't Know

15. Would people in your community like to see the state investment in afterschool programs grow?

82%	Yes
5%	No
14%	Not Sure/Don't Know

16. How concerned would you be if existing programs had to close their doors in your community?

- 59% Very Concerned
- 27% Concerned
- 5% Somewhat Concerned
- 5% Not Concerned
- 5% Don't Know

17. Currently a Joint Legislative Committee to Establish a Permanent Education Foundation Aid Formula is hearing from consultants on how to revamp Rhode Island's education funding formula. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose including afterschool programs in the funding equation?

- 68% Strongly Support
- 18% Somewhat Support
- 5% Somewhat Oppose
- 5% Strongly Oppose
- 5% Don't Know

18. Some people say that "Afterschool programs have the potential to positively impact public education by demonstrating that expanded learning time linked to the school day curriculum, designed to engage youth in hands-on learning opportunities, and aligned with community resources contributes significantly to student success". Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement.

- 60% Strongly Agree
- 25% Somewhat Agree
- 0% Somewhat Disagree
- 5% Strongly Disagree
- 10% Don't Know

19. In your opinion, why are afterschool programs important to your community?

Most frequently cited reasons:

They provide a "safe haven", broaden educational opportunities and learning time, and provide positive guidance

Other reasons mentioned:

Building self-esteem, quality of life, support for working families, keeping youth active and engaged, and because they offer the opportunity to help realize educational reform goals, provide positive relationships with adults, and provide opportunities for youth to discover their passions - helping youth to build enthusiasm for life, school and community

The Afterschool Alliance worked with the Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance to survey mayors and other officials in each of the state's 39 cities and towns. The survey, distributed via the Internet in April 2007, asked municipal leaders about their views on children and older youth in their communities, and the role afterschool programs can play in supporting children and families in and out of the classroom. The Afterschool Alliance received responses from 23 municipal leaders, representing more than half of all municipalities in Rhode Island.