

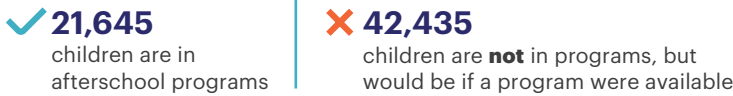
This is Afterschool in South Dakota



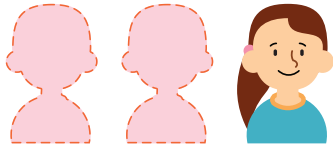
South Dakota parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In South Dakota, more than 42,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

Demand for Afterschool Programs in South Dakota is Enormous

Parents of **64,080** children want afterschool programs



2 in 3 South Dakota children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support South Dakota Children’s Learning and Development

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



Afterschool Works in South Dakota

In a 2024 U.S. Department of Education report on 21st CCLC programs nationally, South Dakota students attending 21st CCLC afterschool programs saw both academic and behavioral improvements. Programs helped:

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** Approximately half of 4th through 8th grade participants demonstrated growth on the state’s reading/language arts (49%) and math assessments (50%).
- ▲ **Reduce chronic absenteeism:** Two-thirds of chronically absent students (67%) improved their school-day attendance.
- ▲ **Improve engagement and behavior:** 77% of 1st through 5th grade participants improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning, and 38% of all students decreased their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.

South Dakota Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

87%

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



88%

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

South Dakota parents report that their child's afterschool program:

78%

Helps them keep their job



95%

Leads to less stress



81%

Boosts productivity



Additionally, 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



If there were not an afterschool program available, what, if any impact would it have on your family?

"It would have serious negative work implications, or my child may be at home alone for several hours before an adult is available to stay with her."

— SOUTH DAKOTA MOM

21st Century Community Learning Centers

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21st CCLC) is the only federal funding dedicated to afterschool and summer programs, enabling states to award funds to local programs that meet community needs. 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.

IN SOUTH DAKOTA:

7,428
children are served by
a 21st CCLC program

46
communities
served

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *South Dakota After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/south-dakota/demand>.
2. U.S. Department of Education. (2024). *21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) analytic support for evaluation and program monitoring: An overview of the 21st CCLC performance data: 2022-2023 (19th report)*. Washington, DC.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. South Dakota Department of Education. (2026). [Number of children and communities served by SD 21st CCLCs, 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

