

Senate Afterschool Caucus

Nationwide, 6.95 million children participate in afterschool programs, including more than one million served through the federal government's 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program. Yet demand far exceeds supply: 22.6 million additional children would enroll in an afterschool program if one were available in their community.

In response to similarly alarming data almost two decades ago, the bipartisan Afterschool Caucus was established on March 3, 2005, to strengthen support for afterschool programs and expand access to high-quality opportunities. The Senate Caucus is co-chaired by Senator Tina Smith (D-Minnesota) and Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska).

Today, the Caucus continues to serve as a respected voice on the need to strengthen and increase the availability of afterschool programs that inspire students to learn, keep kids safe, and give working parents peace of mind.

Afterschool programs are a proven strategy to help children learn, grow, and realize their full potential. By providing safe environments with caring adults, these programs offer enriching learning opportunities that support academic success and long-term well-being.

With particular emphasis on 21st CCLC programs, the Afterschool Caucus works to expand access to afterschool programs for every American school-age child by increasing public awareness of such programs and advancing supportive policies. The Caucus has led briefings and initiatives highlighting the role of afterschool programs in addressing critical issues, including supporting children and families impacted by the opioid crisis, strengthening science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, and sharing new research on effective programs.

Every child deserves access to the learning, safety, and nourishment offered by afterschool programs. As a nation, we rely on schools, communities, and families to work together to ensure our children are safe, engaged, and thriving during school hours and beyond.

For more information about joining the Senate Caucus, contact Brennan Barber (Sen. Smith) at Brennan_Barber@smith.senate.gov or Karen McCarthy (Sen. Murkowski) at Karen_McCarthy@murkowski.senate.gov. Congressional offices are also encouraged to contact Erik Peterson at epeterson@afterschoolalliance.org for more information.

UNITED STATES SENATE AFTERSCHOOL CAUCUS MEMBERS

1. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)
2. Sen. John Boozman (R-Ark.)
3. Sen. Christopher Coons (D-Del.)
4. Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.)
5. Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.)
6. Sen. Susan M. Collins (R-Maine)
7. Sen. Angus King (I-Maine)
8. Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.)
9. Sen. Tina Smith (D-Minn.)
10. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.)
11. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.)
12. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.)
13. Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.)
14. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.)
15. Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)
16. Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.)
17. Sen. Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.)
18. Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.)
19. Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.)
20. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.)
21. Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.)