

# This is Afterschool in Texas



Texas 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 Texas, more than 2.7 million children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

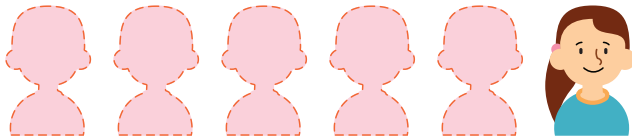
## Demand for Afterschool Programs in Texas is Enormous

Parents of more than  
**3.3 million children**  
want afterschool programs

✓ **581,120**  
children are in  
afterschool programs

✗ **2,730,408**  
children are **not** in programs, but  
would be if a program were available

Approximately 5 in 6 Texas children are missing out.



## Afterschool Programs Support Texas Children’s Learning and Development

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



### Afterschool Works in Texas

A 2025 statewide evaluation of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs by Texas ACE and American Institutes for Research found that participation in programs helped:

**Boost academic performance:**  
40% of students in grades 7 through 8 and 10 through 12 with a prior-year GPA below 3.0 improved their GPA.

**Reduce chronic absenteeism:**  
Chronically absent students attending 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs were more likely to improve their school day attendance than chronically absent non-participants (69% vs. 59%).

**Improve school-day engagement and behavior:**  
78% of 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade participants improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning, and 72% of 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students decreased their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.

# Texas Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

89%

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

Texas parents report that their child's afterschool program:

76%

Helps them keep their job



91%

Leads to less stress



84%

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 greatly reduce my work hours, putting financial stress on our family and emotional stress on our children."

— TEXAS MOM

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

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

126,378

children are served by a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program

657

communities served

Demand for programming in Texas is so great that nearly **2 out of every 3** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

### Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Texas After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/texas/demand>.
2. American Institutes for Research. (2025). *Texas ACE highlights and key takeaways from the 2023-24 programming period*. Texas Afterschool Centers on Education.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Texas Education Agency. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by TX 21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs, 2024-2025] [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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)



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