

This is Afterschool in Virginia

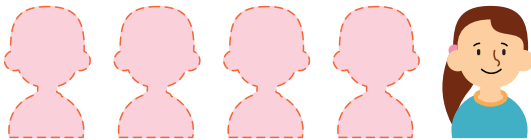


Virginia parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Virginia, approximately 600,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

Demand for Afterschool Programs in Virginia is Enormous



4 in 5 Virginia children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support Virginia Children’s Learning and Development

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



Afterschool Works in Virginia

A 2023 evaluation of Virginia’s 21st CCLC programs by the Center for Research in Educational Policy at the University of Memphis found that programs helped:

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** About three-quarters of participants in grades 4 through 8 demonstrated growth on the state’s reading and language arts (76%) and math assessments (76%); more than half (57%) of students in grades 7 through 8 and 10 through 12 improved their GPA.
- ▲ **Reduce chronic absenteeism:** 70% of chronically absent students improved their school-day attendance; participation had a statistically significant positive effect on students’ attendance.
- ▲ **Improve engagement and behavior:** 96% of 1st through 5th grade participants improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning.

Researchers also found that students participating at higher levels saw greater academic and attendance gains.

Virginia Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

86%

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



91%

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

Virginia parents report that their child's afterschool program:

86%

Helps them keep their job



91%

Leads to less stress



90%

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?

"Without an afterschool program, our family would struggle to find reliable and affordable child care during those crucial after-school hours. This could disrupt our work schedules, leading to financial strain or the need to adjust our employment arrangements. Additionally, our child would miss out on a structured, engaging environment that supports their academic and social development."

— VIRGINIA DAD

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 VIRGINIA:

17,589

children are served by a 21st CCLC program

152

communities served

Demand for programming in Virginia is so great that **2 out of every 5** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Virginia After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/virginia/demand>.
2. Muzzi, C., McKinney, R., Black, J., & Zoblotsky, T. (2023). *Evaluation of Virginia's 21st Century Community Learning Centers 2021-2022*. The Center for Research in Education Policy, University of Memphis.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Virginia Department of Education. (2026). [Number of children and communities served by VA 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

