

# Expanding learning and supports for an equitable recovery

## This is Afterschool in Colorado



Afterschool Alliance

April 2021

In Colorado, afterschool programs provide expanded learning opportunities to 83,215 students and are a lifeline for working families. In Colorado, 82% of parents report that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. Yet, too many kids in Colorado are being left out. In fact, **for every child in an afterschool program, 5 more would participate** if a program were available.

### Helping young people learn, grow, and thrive

#### Students in afterschool programs in Colorado are:



Interacting with peers and building social skills **97%**



Getting homework help **70%**



Taking part in physical activities **87%**

A 2020 evaluation of Colorado's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs by Catherine Roller White Consulting found that based on teachers surveyed, among students in need of improvement, more than 7 in 10 improved their academic performance (76%) and participation in class (73%). Approximately 2 in 3 students also improved their motivation to learn (66%), class attentiveness (66%), and satisfactory homework completion (64%). Teachers noted that students who attended 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs for the full year made significantly more improvement than students who attended for part of the year.

#### Parents in Colorado agree that afterschool programs:



Provide opportunities to build life skills **80%**



Get kids excited about learning **73%**



Reduce the likelihood that youth will use drugs or engage in other risky behaviors **76%**

### Call and response: Afterschool programs stepping up during the pandemic

From the outset of the pandemic, afterschool programs have adapted and expanded their services to best meet the needs of the children and families they serve. In rural northwestern Colorado, AeroLab staff delivered meals to students via school bus routes, offered virtual cooking classes, held virtual trivia tournaments and scavenger hunts, and sent home activity kits. In the San Luis Valley, the Boys & Girls Clubs set up a response team that provided nearly 1,000 families food, water, and basic supplies like toilet paper. They set up their programs remotely and made countless calls to families to ensure they could access virtual learning.

#### A 2021 national survey of afterschool providers finds programs continue to provide:

Academic enrichment	<b>94%</b>
Time to interact with peers	<b>86%</b>
Physical activity	<b>81%</b>
Snacks or meals	<b>77%</b>
Check-ins with student and families	<b>32%</b>
In-person services during virtual school days*	<b>24%</b>

Looking toward the summer, **79%** of providers will be offering summer programming.

*\*Among program providers that report that they are offering in-person services.*

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

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) are local before-school, afterschool, and summer learning programs that serve students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools, engaging students in hands-on learning activities aimed at supporting their academic growth. They provide a variety of enrichment activities to complement school-day learning and offer educational and support services to the families of participating children.

In Colorado, 19,401 children in 99 communities take part in a Community Learning Center.

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grants are the only dedicated federal funding source that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programs is so great in Colorado that **1** out of every **10** applications cannot be funded.

The 2020 Department of Education annual performance report of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC found that among regular participants:



Nearly half improved their math (**48%**) and English grades (**48%**)



**69%** improved homework completion and class participation



**62%** improved their behavior

## A lifeline for working families

A national survey of parents in the fall of 2020 found that as the pandemic continued to disrupt school schedules, most parents were concerned about their child's social and emotional well-being and connection to peers, as well as their own ability to continue to provide learning support and/or care for their child as virtual school and distance learning extends into 2021.

**Based on the 2020 America After 3PM household survey, parents in Colorado agree that afterschool programs:**

- Build positive relationships between children and adults **73%**
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble **72%**
- Help working parents keep their jobs **82%**
- Provide working parents peace of mind **81%**

## A smart investment

**Research spanning several states shows that every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by:**



- 1** Increasing kids' earning potential
- 2** Improving kids' performance at school
- 3** Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

Additionally, Community Learning Centers leverage diverse partners to meet community needs. A typical program receives \$67,000 from partners to supplement its federal funding. Nationwide, partner contributions totaled more than \$1 billion between 2006 and 2010.

Parents in Colorado are behind public investment in afterschool programs

**88%** of parents favor public funding of afterschool programs to expand opportunities for kids in underserved communities.



Support is strong and bipartisan



**93%** Democrats



**88%** Independents



**92%** Republicans