

Expanding learning and supports for an equitable recovery

This is Afterschool in the District of Columbia



Afterschool Alliance April 2021

In the District of Columbia, afterschool programs provide expanded learning opportunities to 21,157 students and are a lifeline for working families. In the District of Columbia, 92% of parents report that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. Yet, too many kids in the District of Columbia are being left out. In fact, **for every child in an afterschool program, one more would participate** if a program were available.

Helping young people learn, grow, and thrive

Students in afterschool programs in the District of Columbia are:



Interacting with peers and building social skills **95%**



Getting homework help **77%**



Taking part in physical activities **86%**

An evaluation by Stillmeadow Benchmark Associates of The Fishing School, an afterschool program serving low-income communities and reaching more than 400 students daily, found that during the 2018-19 school year, 93% of participants improved or maintained their grade in reading, and 85% improved or maintained their math grade. The most recent three-year evaluation of Life Pieces to Masterpieces found that almost all participants improved or maintained their grade in reading (97%), and 90% could identify a positive role model in the program. All 12th grade program participants (100%) graduated from high school and enrolled in secondary education or training.

Parents in the District of Columbia agree that afterschool programs:



Provide opportunities to build life skills **86%**



Get kids excited about learning **79%**



Reduce the likelihood that youth will use drugs or engage in other risky behaviors **80%**

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. 826DC helps students process their feelings about COVID-19 through virtual creative writing projects. They provide writing materials and pre-recorded workshops, as well as work with some students one-on-one (virtually) to help them turn their writing into professional publications. In Charlotte, North Carolina, our BRIDGE for KIDS distributed tens of thousands of meals and served as a liaison between schools and families, translating materials for parents, the majority of whom are English Language Learners.

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

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

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

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

21st Century Community Learning Centers

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st 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 the District of Columbia, 9,968 children in 117 communities take part in a Community Learning Center.

21st CCLC grants are the only dedicated federal funding source that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programs is so great in the District of Columbia that **3** out of every **5** applications cannot be funded.

The 2020 Department of Education annual performance report of 21st 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 the District of Columbia agree that afterschool programs:

- Build positive relationships between children and adults **72%**
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble **83%**
- Help working parents keep their jobs **84%**
- Provide working parents peace of mind **90%**

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 the District of Columbia are behind public investment in afterschool programs

89% of parents favor public funding of afterschool programs to expand opportunities for kids in underserved communities.



Support is strong and bipartisan



92% Democrats



76% Independents



97% Republicans