

Expanding learning and supports for an equitable recovery

This is Afterschool in New York



Afterschool Alliance

April 2021

In New York, afterschool programs provide expanded learning opportunities to 441,393 students and are a lifeline for working families. In New York, 84% of parents report that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. Yet, too many kids in New York are being left out. In fact, **for every child in an afterschool program, 4 more would participate if a program were available.**

Helping young people learn, grow, and thrive

Students in afterschool programs in New York are:



Interacting with peers and building social skills **86%**



Getting homework help **86%**



Taking part in physical activities **83%**

A 2020 study conducted by Measurement Incorporated of New York's 21st CCLC programs noted that pre-pandemic, successes of the program included student and parent engagement in the program and improved graduation rates, English language arts and math performance, and homework completion. During the pandemic, the study found that programs were providing virtual programming, helping students access technology, giving referrals for families, and providing emotional support services.

Parents in New York agree that afterschool programs:



Provide opportunities to build life skills **82%**



Get kids excited about learning **78%**



Reduce the likelihood that youth will use drugs or engage in other risky behaviors **78%**

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. PAL NYC opened a learning lab for students to attend virtual school, free-of-charge, as well as participate in recreational activities, games, and crafts. PAL worked with interns from Cornell to teach teens about health and wellness, including providing at-home healthy meal kits. The Troy Boys & Girls Club provided hundreds of thousands of meals to families and launched a workforce development program. Youth also work in an indoor hydroponic farm, which supports the food service program.

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 New York, 60,000 children in 370 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 New York that **5** out of every **7** 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 New York agree that afterschool programs:

- Build positive relationships between children and adults **77%**
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble **76%**
- Help working parents keep their jobs **80%**
- Provide working parents peace of mind **82%**

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 New York 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



89% Democrats



92% Independents



88% Republicans