

Expanding learning and supports for an equitable recovery

This is Afterschool in Rhode Island



 Afterschool Alliance April 2021

In Rhode Island, afterschool programs provide expanded learning opportunities to 18,685 students and are a lifeline for working families. In Rhode Island, 87% of parents report that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. Yet, too many kids in Rhode Island are being left out. In fact, **for every child in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate** if a program were available.

Helping young people learn, grow, and thrive

Students in afterschool programs in Rhode Island are:

-  Interacting with peers and building social skills **93%**
-  Getting homework help **68%**
-  Taking part in physical activities **92%**

A 2014 statewide evaluation of Rhode Island's 21st CCLC programs by the American Institutes for Research found that a high proportion of students participating in the programs believe that the programs have helped them with their academic skills as well as their social and personal skills.

Parents in Rhode Island agree that afterschool programs:

-  Provide opportunities to build life skills **81%**
-  Get kids excited about learning **75%**
-  Reduce the likelihood that youth will use drugs or engage in other risky behaviors **72%**

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 Cranston, Gladstone Elementary students learn about STEM, while also building leadership and advocacy skills through the Watershed Action's AquaSTEM afterschool program, which ran virtually during COVID-19. Supply kits were delivered directly to students, and instructors worked on experiments with students via Google Meet. The Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket ran a learning hub where kids attend school virtually and access Chromebooks, chargers, and headphones if they do not have their own. After school kids participate in enrichment activities, swim, and play outside.

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 Rhode Island, 9,082 children in 42 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 Rhode Island that **1** out of every **2** 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 Rhode Island agree that afterschool programs:

- Build positive relationships between children and adults **75%**
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble **72%**
- Help working parents keep their jobs **81%**
- Provide working parents peace of mind **86%**

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 Rhode Island 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



94% Democrats



92% Independents



87% Republicans