

# Expanding learning and supports for an equitable recovery

## This is Afterschool in Wisconsin






 Afterschool Alliance April 2021

In Wisconsin, afterschool programs provide expanded learning opportunities to 115,487 students and are a lifeline for working families. In Wisconsin, 88% of parents report that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. Yet, too many kids in Wisconsin are being left out. In fact, **for every child in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate** if a program were available.




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

#### Students in afterschool programs in Wisconsin are:

-  Interacting with peers and building social skills **98%**
-  Getting homework help **74%**
-  Taking part in physical activities **92%**

A 2020 report by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction on 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs in the state found that during COVID-19, 75% of programs offered support services or activities to youth and their families, including one-on-one check-ins, delivering meals and/or activity packets, and online activities and meetings. While data collection was challenging during the pandemic, a 2014 evaluation by the department found that, based on teacher reports, students regularly participating in the program saw academic and behavioral gains. For example, teachers reported that 73% of students improved their academic performance, 67% improved their class participation, and 60% saw improvements in their motivation to learn.

#### Parents in Wisconsin 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 **71%**

### 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. Madison-area Out-of-School Time partnered with the school district to support community learning hubs, provide vital services like meals and COVID-19 screenings, and meet students' virtual learning needs. In Dane County, the Boys & Girls Club, in partnership with the United Way and others, mobilized quickly to raise over \$100,000 for meals, medical supplies, and more in less than 10 hours to support families, college students, and senior citizens affected by COVID-19.

#### 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 Wisconsin, 19,818 children in 129 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 Wisconsin that **3** out of every **4** 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 Wisconsin agree that afterschool programs:**

- Build positive relationships between children and adults **77%**
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble **73%**
- Help working parents keep their jobs **82%**
- Provide working parents peace of mind **83%**

## 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 Wisconsin are behind public investment in afterschool programs

**85%** of parents favor public funding of afterschool programs to expand opportunities for kids in underserved communities.



Support is strong and bipartisan



**93%** Democrats



**83%** Independents



**82%** Republicans