

This is Afterschool in Indiana



Afterschool Alliance

Throughout the pandemic, afterschool and summer programs adapted and expanded services to meet the needs of children and families. They are vital partners today in supporting students' well-being and academic growth. Yet, too many kids in Indiana are being left out. Prior to the pandemic, a survey of Indiana parents found that for every child in an afterschool program, **3 more would participate if a program were available**. These programs provide safe and supportive spaces to keep young people engaged in learning during a difficult and trying time. So it comes as no surprise that in a national fall 2020 survey, 75% of parents agreed that the experience of the pandemic made them appreciate teachers and afterschool providers more than ever before.

Accelerating students' learning and growth

Students in afterschool programs in Indiana are:



Getting homework help – **74%**



Interacting with their peers and building social skills – **90%**



Taking part in STEM learning opportunities – **68%**

Promoting healthy futures

Parents in Indiana agree that afterschool programs are helping young people to:



Learn life skills – **83%**



Be physically active – **86%**



Build positive relationships with caring adults and mentors – **77%**



Access nutritious foods – **68%**



Build confidence – **80%**



Stay safe and out of trouble – **78%**

A 2021 evaluation of Indiana's 21st CCLC programs by Diehl Consulting Group found that higher levels of participation in the afterschool program were associated with improved academic performance and school-related behaviors. Students with high program participation (90+ days) maintained a B or higher or increased their grade from fall to spring in English/language arts (72%) and math (73%). Teachers surveyed shared that among regularly attending students in need of improvement, a majority improved their self-confidence (64%), classroom participation (57%), and ability to get along with others (52%).

American Rescue Plan Funding Helping Increase Access to Afterschool and Summer Programs During the Pandemic

Over the past two years, an overwhelming majority of afterschool and summer program providers have been concerned about their program's long-term funding and future. Costs associated with recruiting and retaining staff, instituting new COVID-19 health and safety protocols, and adding program space to allow for social distancing are a few of the added expenses afterschool and summer programs faced through the pandemic. Funds from American Rescue Plan present a tremendous opportunity to help afterschool and summer programs support the children and families in their communities. South Bend Community School Corporation (SBCSC), Indiana, conducted a community planning survey for their relief spending. Feedback from stakeholders included a high priority for more afterschool and tutoring programs. The district's top investments for accelerated learning included extended learning, defined as "ensuring students stay connected to the power of education through hands-on and engaging learning opportunities," which includes afterschool programming. It also included social-emotional learning and community partnerships (21.6 million and \$4.5 million respectively). The funding enabled afterschool programs to be offered at every district school for two full years, as well as additional summer programming. The district also employed a new funding methodology to ensure specific, more commonly under-resourced populations, were equitably allocated funds.



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Supporting working families

Parents in Indiana agree that afterschool:



Helps working parents keep their jobs – **84%**



Helps parents build connections to their child's school day education – **62%**



Provides working parents peace of mind – **84%**

A smart investment

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



Increasing kids' earning potential as adults



Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



Improving kids' performance at school

Indiana parents want investment in afterschool and summer programs

The overwhelming majority of parents in Indiana favor public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs:

90%

favor public funding for afterschool opportunities

88%

favor public funding for summer learning opportunities

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. These programs engage students in hands-on learning activities aimed at supporting their academic growth, provide a variety of enrichment activities to complement school-day learning, and offer educational and support services to the families of participating children.

The 2021 Department of Education annual performance report of 21st CCLC found that among regular participants:

1 in 2

improved their language arts or math grades

7 in 10

improved their homework completion and class participation

MORE THAN

3 in 5

improved their behavior in class

In Indiana, **15,917 children in 228 communities** take part in a 21st Century Community Learning Center.

21st CCLC grants are the only dedicated federal funding sources that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs.

Demand for programming in Indiana is so great that **nearly 1 out of every 2** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Transforming Lives

"During the pandemic, it was challenging because I was social distancing and not doing certain activities. But, my 21st Century [Community Learning Center] program has been a place where I've been able to meet new friends, communicate, and be social with others. I wasn't a talker, but now I am! The mentors in my program also helped me stay on top of my work and encouraged me. Without my program, I wouldn't have the grades I do now, and I wouldn't be as social as I am. I wouldn't be able to do a lot of things without my program."

Kyla Anderson

High school student attending a 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool program

