

# This is Afterschool in Kansas



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 Kansas are being left out. Prior to the pandemic, a survey of Kansas 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 Kansas are:



Getting homework help – **78%**



Interacting with their peers and building social skills – **98%**



Taking part in STEM learning opportunities – **64%**

## Promoting healthy futures

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



Learn life skills – **80%**



Be physically active – **85%**



Build positive relationships with caring adults and mentors – **78%**



Access nutritious foods – **69%**



Build confidence – **82%**



Stay safe and out of trouble – **69%**

A 2018 evaluation of Kansas's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs by the Kansas State Department of Education found that based on teacher surveys from 38 sites, an overwhelming majority of students participating in programs improved, stayed the same, or did not need to change in the areas of attendance (98%), academics (96%), homework completion (95%), and behavior (90%).

## 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. For example, Wichita Public Schools (WPS) is allocating \$54 million of their \$245 million Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II and III funds to strategies for "addressing unfinished learning." Based on feedback from students, teachers, and other partners in the community, the district created additional learning opportunities for WPS students, including a nearly month-long summer 2021 program offered to pre-K-12th graders in need of support. While programming was focused on math, reading, and writing, it also included activities in the areas of health and wellness, arts, and leadership. The district made available counselors, social workers, and/or psychologists to support students' behavior and mental health needs over the summer. Similar programming is being made available for the 2022 summer.



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## Supporting working families

Parents in Kansas agree that afterschool:



Helps working parents keep their jobs – **82%**



Helps parents build connections to their child's school day education – **54%**



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

## Kansas parents want investment in afterschool and summer programs

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

**88%**

favor public funding for afterschool opportunities

**89%**

favor public funding for summer learning opportunities

## 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. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Kansas, **8,476 children in 122 communities** take part in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center.

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

Demand for programming in Kansas is so great that **nearly 1 out of every 5** 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center afterschool program



The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. Learn more at: [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)