



# This is Afterschool in Missouri



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



Getting homework help – **71%**



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



Taking part in STEM learning opportunities – **65%**

## Promoting healthy futures

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



Learn life skills – **82%**



Be physically active – **85%**



Build positive relationships with caring adults and mentors – **76%**



Access nutritious foods – **66%**



Build confidence – **77%**



Stay safe and out of trouble – **74%**

A 2020 evaluation of Missouri's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs by the Institute of Public Policy and the University of Missouri found that 3 in 4 regular program participants increased or maintained their reading (74%), math (75%), or science (75%) grades. Moreover, 2 in 3 participants who received a D+ or lower increased their grade in the respective subjects by the end of the year in reading (66%) and math (68%), and 72% of students with a D+ or lower in science improved their science grade. Students in the program reported a positive experience, where on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "almost never true" and 5 is "almost always true," students agreed that they learned things in the program that helped them in school (3.95), that the program challenged them in a good way (3.88), that they felt like they belonged (4.11) and mattered at the program (3.92), and that that they enjoyed going to the program (4.20).

## 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, Columbia Public Schools is using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III funding to support adding intensive tutoring, other academic supports, and anything directly linked to supporting students (including devices, program materials, curriculum, staffing, and more ) to the existing afterschool programming administered by community partners. The district is estimating \$500,000 for afterschool and is inviting community partners to respond to a survey with details on programming to be offered and financial support needed in order to determine exact funding needs.



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## Supporting working families

Parents in Missouri agree that afterschool:



Helps working parents keep their jobs – **79%**



Helps parents build connections to their child's school day education – **61%**



Provides 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:



Increasing kids' earning potential as adults



Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



Improving kids' performance at school

## Missouri parents want investment in afterschool and summer programs

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

**89%**

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 Missouri, **15,451 children in 147 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 Missouri 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

