



This is Afterschool in North Carolina



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



Getting homework help – **72%**



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



Taking part in STEM learning opportunities – **76%**

Promoting healthy futures

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



Learn life skills – **81%**



Be physically active – **84%**



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



Access nutritious foods – **70%**



Build confidence – **76%**



Stay safe and out of trouble – **75%**

A 2021 evaluation of North Carolina's 21st CCLC programs by the SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro found that, based on teacher surveys, a majority of students who attended over 30 days of programming had improved in homework completion and class participation (88%) and behavior (79%). End-of-year assessments were not conducted due to COVID-19, but the 2020 evaluation reported regular 21st CCLC attendees improved their score on the state's end-of-grade reading test from the end of the 2017-18 school year to the end of the 2018-19 year at the same rate as students across the state. For math, 21st CCLC students improved at a slightly greater rate compared to students across the state.

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. In Winston-Salem/Forsyth, the district collected stakeholder feedback to address learning loss and found that among the activities prioritized by both the staff and the community were expanding partnerships with local community entities to offer quality afterschool enrichment opportunities. Additionally, continuing to provide 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool programs was included as a recommendation for activities related to afterschool and summer learning, with a focus in the 2021-22 school year to identify unmet needs at schools and expand the availability of afterschool programs with resources from Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds.



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Supporting working families

Parents in North Carolina agree that afterschool:

-  Helps working parents keep their jobs – **85%**
-  Helps parents build connections to their child's school day education – **66%**
-  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

North Carolina parents want investment in afterschool and summer programs

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

89%

favor public funding for afterschool opportunities

91%

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 North Carolina, **11,967 children in 167 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 North Carolina is so great that **nearly 2 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 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

