

# This is Afterschool

Inspiring Students to Learn,  
Helping Them Make Smart Choices,  
and Giving Parents Peace of Mind

Decades of research show that afterschool programs help kids learn, grow, and avoid risky behaviors. Programs spark interest in learning so students attend school more often, get better grades, and improve their behavior in class. Through new learning experiences, young people discover what they love to do and gain the skills they need to land that first job.

Students who regularly participate in quality afterschool programs:



Develop strong social skills



Are excited about learning



Improve work habits and grades



Improve school day attendance



Have higher graduation rates



Explore career paths and gain workforce skills

## After going to afterschool programs:

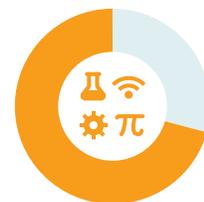
**65%** of students improve their homework completion and class participation.

Nearly **60%** of students improve their behavior in class.

**1 in 2** students improve their math and reading grades.

## More than 70%

of students in STEM afterschool programs express more interest in and knowledge about careers in science. They also build essential skills, such as perseverance and critical thinking.



## America Needs More Afterschool

For every student in afterschool, **2 more would participate** if a program were available.



**STUDENTS ENROLLED:**  
**10.2 MILLION**



**STUDENTS WAITING:**  
**19.4 MILLION**

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grants are the only dedicated source of support for local communities' afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programs is so great that **2 out of every 3 applications cannot be funded.**

Across America, 1 in 5 kids are alone and unsupervised from 3 to 6 p.m. These are the hours when juvenile crime and victimization peak—and many parents are still at work. When kids have no place to go after school, they miss out on valuable learning opportunities, parents lose 8 days of work and businesses lose up to \$300 billion a year.

## Afterschool is changing that.

Afterschool programs give parents peace of mind because they know their kids are safe—online and offline—and engaged in fun learning opportunities.

For many parents, afterschool is a lifeline that helps them work without worry and balance their schedule.

- 8 in 10 parents say afterschool programs give them peace of mind and help them keep their jobs.
- Close to 3 in 4 parents believe afterschool reduces the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.
- 84% of parents support public funding for afterschool programs.

Afterschool provides a solid return on investment. Research shows that every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by:



- Increasing kids' learning potential
- Improving kids' performance at school
- Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grants support local afterschool and summer programs serving 1.7 million children in 11,512 communities. The grants are the only dedicated federal source of afterschool support.

Communities that earn Community Learning Center grants work with local partners to meet community needs. A typical partner contributes an additional \$67,000 to support programs. Nationwide, partner contributions totaled more than \$1 billion from 2006 to 2010.

Children attend programs in:

- Public school districts: **9,446**
- Community based organizations: **1,125**
- Charter schools: **463**
- Faith-based organizations: **160**

This is

**Afterschool**

Helping Students Succeed  
by Susanna Pradhan

My afterschool program and the experiences I have had because of it have shaped me into who I am today: a young woman who is determined, confident, and not afraid to stand up for what she believes is right. The program helped me improve in English and other school subjects. It provided a safe space where I could thrive academically and socially. I am constantly seeking new opportunities to challenge myself to learn, grow, and stretch my horizon to become a better student, a better leader and, most importantly, a better human being.



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)