

Afterschool Programs in Texas

A powerful convergence of factors—including a lack of federal, state and local funding, and families and communities working with tight budgets—leaves 1.2 million of Texas’s school-age children alone and unsupervised in the hours after school. Afterschool programs are essential to keep kids safe, engage children in enriching activities, and give peace of mind to working moms and dads during the out-of-school hours. There are approximately 678,989 school-age children in afterschool programs in Texas. This includes 104,440 kids who attend 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)—programs that serve children living in high-poverty areas and attending low-performing schools. At a time when families and communities are struggling financially and kids are falling behind academically, afterschool programs are needed more than ever.

Afterschool Programs Are More than a Safe Space:

Afterschool programs not only keep kids safe, they also help improve students’ academic performance, school attendance, behavior and health, and support working families:

- Research found that strong participation in 21st CCLC afterschool programs correlated with better attendance during the regular school day. Specifically, they found that approximately half (48 percent) of youth who participated in three quarters or more of the available 21st CCLC activities missed five or fewer days of school during the fall semester, compared to 17 percent of youth who participated in less than one quarter of the available activities. (Texas State Education Agency, 2009)
- A study of nearly 3,000 low-income students at 35 high-quality afterschool programs across the U.S. found students who regularly attended programs over the course of two years, compared to their peers who were routinely unsupervised during the afterschool hours:
 - Made significant improvements academically and behaviorally;
 - Demonstrated gains in their standardized math test scores; and
 - Saw reductions in teacher-reported misconduct and reduced use of drugs and alcohol. (Vandell, D.L., et. al., 2007)

Need for Afterschool Programs in Texas by the Numbers:

1.7 million kids in Texas would participate in an afterschool program if one were available to them (51%).

1.2 million kids are on their own in the hours after school in Texas (26%).

678,989 kids in Texas participate in afterschool programs (15%).

Attendance, behavior and coursework are three key indicators of whether a middle school student will likely graduate from high school.

An analysis of 68 afterschool studies found that students participating in high-quality afterschool programs went to school more, behaved better, received better grades and performed better on tests compared to students who did not participate in afterschool programs.

- Students who attended 21st CCLC programs made significant improvements in their classroom behavior, completing their homework and participating in class. Gains were also made in students' math and English grades. (Learning Point Associates, 2011)
- A study found that—after controlling for baseline obesity, poverty, race and ethnicity—the prevalence of obesity was significantly lower for children participating in an afterschool program when compared to nonparticipants. (Mahoney, et. al., 2005)

"I have been involved with education issues for almost 30 years. This experience has strongly reinforced for me that all children, regardless of income level or race have the same potential for high achievement when provided appropriate opportunities. Thus, our goal must be to support the development of quality afterschool programs for all children, but especially those in low-income communities."

-Ruben Hinojosa
U.S. House of Representatives
(15th)

State of Federal Funding for Afterschool Programs in Texas:

In Texas, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs. Investment in 21st CCLC programs helps ensure children from high-poverty and low-performing schools have access to a safe and supervised space; keeps kids involved in interest-driven academic enrichment activities that put them on the road to become lifelong learners; and helps support working families. Currently, 2,082,234 kids in Texas are eligible to participate in a 21st CCLC program. However, just 104,440 students attend a 21st CCLC program due to lack of federal funding.

A Closer Look at 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)

- If the 21st CCLC initiative were funded at the fully authorized level, the Texas share would be \$222,656,133 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. The current amount appropriated is \$104,440,061.
- 373 additional grants in Texas could be awarded if full funding for 21st CCLC were available.

Estimated Number of Children Participating in 21 st CCLC Programs*	
FY2011	102,902
FY2012	104,440
FY2013	104,440
*Numbers are based on the cost of \$1,000 per child	



The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

In 2012, the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)—which provides vouchers or subsidies for low-income parents to pay for child care, including preschool, before-school, afterschool and summer care for children ages 6 to 12—received \$5.21 billion. Although Pres. Obama's most recent FY2013 budget proposed an additional \$825 million national increase to CCDF, further support for this federal funding source will be necessary to promote greater access to quality afterschool programs.

Total FY2012 CCDF funds in Texas	Federal Share	Percentage of children receiving subsidies who are school-age
\$608,788,157	\$460,772,942	30%