

Inspiring Learning.  
Safe and Supportive.  
Lifeline for Working Families.

# This is Afterschool in Arkansas



Afterschool Alliance

March 2020

After the school day ends in Arkansas, 1 in 8 kids are alone and unsupervised. These hours—from 2 to 6 p.m.—are the peak time for juvenile crime in Arkansas according to the latest report by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a national organization of law enforcement leaders. Afterschool programs turn that time of risk into opportunity. They keep kids safe and help them realize their full potential. Nationwide, 9 in 10 adults say afterschool programs are important to their community, yet more than 19 million kids are waiting to get in.

Fortunately for the 65,107 children in afterschool programs in Arkansas, the hours after school are a time when programs help kids get excited about learning, attend school more often, get better grades, and build foundational skills, like communication, teamwork, and problem solving.

## Inspiring Learning



63% of Arkansas parents agree that afterschool programs help their kids get excited about learning.



62% of Arkansas parents agree afterschool programs can help kids gain STEM-related interests and skills.



63% of Arkansas parents agree afterschool programs help kids gain teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking skills.



51% of Arkansas parents agree that afterschool programs help students improve school day attendance.

## Keeping Kids Safe and Supported



74% of Arkansas parents believe afterschool programs reduce the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.



69% of Arkansas parents agree that afterschool programs provide access to caring adults and mentors.

## Unmet Demand for Afterschool in Arkansas

For every Arkansas student in afterschool, **3 more** would participate if a program were available.



**ENROLLED:**  
**65,107**  
**STUDENTS**

**WAITING:**  
**190,563**  
**STUDENTS**

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grants are the only dedicated federal funding source that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programs is so great in Arkansas that **1 out of every 2 applications cannot be funded.**

In a 2019 evaluation by the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality of Arkansas' 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs, students reported that the programs helped them improve their academic habits, such as following the rules (95%), and helped them with their social and emotional skills and competencies, including working well with others (91%) and sharing their thoughts even if they disagreed (89%). Additionally, among regular participants, 41% and 42% increased or remained in the advanced or proficient levels in reading and math, respectively.

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

In Arkansas, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers—local afterschool, before-school and summer learning programs that serve students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools—provide services for approximately 7,000 kids and 82 communities.

In a nationwide study of students who regularly attend a Community Learning Center, teachers report that:



**1 in 2**

improved their math and Language Arts grades



**More than 2 in 3**

improved their homework completion and class participation



**More than 3 in 5**

improved their behavior in class

Community Learning Centers bring together diverse partners to meet community needs. A typical program receives \$67,000 from partners to supplement its federal funding. Nationwide, partner contributions totaled more than \$1 billion between 2006 and 2010.

## A Lifeline for Working Families

Families across America report that the gap between work and school schedules can be up to 25 hours per week. Parents lose 8 days of work, and businesses lose up to \$300 billion a year due to parental concerns about afterschool care.

- **74% of Arkansas** parents say afterschool programs give them peace of mind.
- **79% of Arkansas** parents agree afterschool programs help them keep their jobs.

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



- 1** Increasing kids' earning potential
- 2** Improving kids' performance at school
- 3** Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



"I've very much fed off of the kindness I received from the group leaders at Boys & Girls Club. As a result, I'm probably going to be teaching and combining my love for music with my teaching. Afterschool is about having options and getting to experiment with all those different things to figure out what it is that you really want."

### Jazmyne McNair

Graduate of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lawrence, a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC site in Lawrence, KS



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)

**This is Afterschool**  
Helping kids realize their full potential.