

Afterschool Alliance COVID-19 Tracking Parent Survey – Summer Results

Data are based on an online survey, conducted by Edge Research August 4–18, 2020 of 1,071 parents.

SURVEY¹

Summer Screening Questions

Thinking about last summer (2019), did your child participate in a structured summer experience different from childcare (e.g., summer school, summer enrichment or sports program, summer camp, job or internship)?

Yes	49%
No	51%

Number of respondents: 1,071

This summer (2020), has your child participated in, or is currently participating in a structured summer experience different from childcare (e.g., summer school, summer enrichment or sports program, summer camp, job or internship)?

Yes	34%
No	66%

Number of respondents: 1,071

¹ Totals within questions may be different due to rounding.



Summer Participant Questions

This summer (2020) was your child’s structured summer experience...

In-person	36%
Virtual	37%
Both in-person and virtual	26%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 379

You indicated your child regularly participated in a structured summer experience (that is different from childcare) during at least one week this summer. Please select the following options that your child participated in.

Voluntary summer program that provides a variety of learning and enrichment activities	49%
All other specialty camps or programs (e.g., arts, sports, drama, religious)	27%
Mandatory summer school/school credit recovery program	23%
Optional summer school classes for credit or enrichment	23%
Work/summer job/internship	15%
STEM camp	13%
College readiness/preparation program	6%
Other	3%

Number of respondents: 379

On average, for how many weeks will your child have participated in a summer program by the end of summer 2020? Your best estimate is fine.

Average number of weeks	5.2 weeks
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Number of respondents: 336

On the days your child participated in a summer program this year, what was the average number of hours per day? Your best estimate is fine.

Average number of hours per day	4.5 hours
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Number of respondents: 344

Were the summer program(s) your child participated in this summer...? Please select all that apply.

Free	48%
With a cost	53%
Not sure	4%

Number of respondents: 362

On the weeks your child participated in a summer program, what was the average weekly amount of money your family paid for summer programs for your child that had a cost? Your best estimate is fine.

Average cost per week (excluding \$0)	\$119.90
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Number of respondents: 180

And where was the structured summer experience/s that your child participated in this summer held? Select all that apply.

Public or private school	30%
Virtual	24%
Community based organization (e.g., YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, 4-H)	23%
City or town facility (including Parks and Recreation Department)	21%
Child care center	15%
Museum or science center	13%

Library	12%
Religious organization	12%
College or university	9%
Other	7%
Unsure	2%

Number of respondents: 379

Thinking about the structured summer experience (that is different than child care) that your child attended most, how satisfied are you with your child's overall experience?

Extremely or somewhat satisfied overall	90%
Extremely satisfied	57%
Somewhat satisfied	33%
Neutral	8%
Somewhat dissatisfied or extremely dissatisfied overall	2%
Somewhat dissatisfied	1%
Extremely dissatisfied	1%
Don't know	0%

Number of respondents: 379

How important were each of the following when choosing what your child would do this summer (2020)?

	Top 2 box Extremely/Somewhat important
Safety of environment	90%
Knowledgeable and caring staff	88%
Safety and cleaning precautions against the coronavirus	86%
Opportunities to build life skills, like interacting with peers, developing social skills, and responsible decision making	85%
Opportunities for social connections with peers and caring adults	84%
Convenient hours	83%
Program convenience, such as location or transportation	80%

Physical activity opportunities	80%
Variety of activities	79%
Science, technology, engineering, math, or computer science learning opportunities	79%
Helps keep my child from losing academic ground over the summer	78%
Tradition/what my child has enjoyed before	77%
Program costs	76%
Opportunities to experience the outdoors	74%
Music or arts	68%
Programming to reduce risky behaviors, including substance use, teen pregnancy, and violence (Shown only if child is in grades 6-12)	68%
Snacks/meals including healthy options	68%
College or career exploration (Shown only if child is in grades 6-12)	67%

Number of respondents: 379

Respondents with a child in grade 6-12: 212

Summer Non-Participant Questions

“Summer learning programs” are safe, structured programs that operate either in-person or virtually to provide activities and encourage learning and development during the summer months. They are different from childcare. They include summer learning and enrichment programs, sports programs, summer camp, and for older youth jobs or internships. If a summer learning program as described above was available to you this summer (2020), how likely would you have been to have your child participate in such a program?

Extremely or somewhat likely overall	48%
Extremely likely	21%
Somewhat likely	27%
Neither likely nor unlikely	19%
Somewhat or not at all likely overall	33%
Somewhat unlikely	13%
Not at all likely	20%

Number of respondents: 692

Many factors may have influenced your decision not to enroll your child/children in a summer program. What were the main reasons you decided to not have your child/children attend a program this summer (2020)? Please mark all that apply.

I was not comfortable sending my child/children to a summer program due to COVID-19	51%
Summer programs were not available in my community due to COVID-19	41%
Too expensive	16%
Family does other things together during the summer	15%
Concerns about the economy and being able to afford a summer program this summer	12%
No programs, or spaces in programs, were available relevant to my children's needs or interests	9%
I did not know what programs were available for my child	9%
Issues with location or transportation	6%
Summer hours did not meet needs	4%
My work has changed, and we no longer needed a summer program	4%
Other	4%

Number of respondents: 692

Afterschool Program Specific Questions

The next questions will ask about afterschool programs. An afterschool program is defined as a program that a child regularly attends that provides a supervised, enriching environment in the hours after the school day ends (typically around 3 P.M.). These programs are usually **offered in schools or community centers and are different from individual activities** such as sports, special lessons, or hobby clubs, and different from childcare facilities that provide supervision but not enrichment.

Please think ahead to when schools re-open this year. Please indicate how likely you would be to have your child participate in an afterschool program, either in-person, virtually, or a hybrid of in-person and virtual, this fall?

Extremely or somewhat likely overall	49%
Extremely likely	23%

Somewhat likely	26%
Neither likely nor unlikely	15%
Somewhat or not at all likely overall	31%
Somewhat unlikely	10%
Not at all likely	21%
Not sure	4%

Number of respondents: 1,071

Given COVID-19, how comfortable are you with sending your child to an in-person afterschool program in the fall?

Very or somewhat comfortable overall	37%
Very comfortable	18%
Somewhat comfortable	19%
Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable	12%
Somewhat or very uncomfortable overall	48%
Somewhat uncomfortable	16%
Very uncomfortable	32%
Not sure/not applicable	3%

Number of respondents: 1,071

How important will each of the following reasons be in selecting your child's primary afterschool program?

	Top 2 box Extremely/Somewhat important
Safety of environment	92%
Knowledgeable and caring staff	92%
Safety and cleaning precautions against the coronavirus	92%
Opportunities to build life skills, like interacting with peers, developing social skills, and responsible decision making	91%
Exciting my child about learning	91%
Opportunities for social connections with peers and caring adults	90%
Convenient hours	90%

Variety of activities	89%
Physical activity opportunities	87%
Science, technology, engineering, math, or computer science learning opportunities	87%
College or career exploration (Shown only if child is in grades 6-12)	86%
Opportunities for reading or writing	86%
Program convenience, such as location or transportation	85%
Homework or academic help	85%
Program costs	84%
Opportunities to experience the outdoors	83%
Tradition/what my child has enjoyed before	82%
Programming to reduce risky behaviors, including substance use, teen pregnancy, and violence (Shown only if child is in grades 6-12)	79%
Music or arts	76%
Snacks/meals including healthy options	76%

Number of respondents: 538

Respondents with a child in grade 6-12: 284

Questions for All

Thinking about the fall, and starting a new school year, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Top 2 box Completely/Somewhat agree
Schools and afterschool programs need to collaborate locally on the best ways to meet families' needs	80%
If virtual school and distance learning continue, someone in my house will be able to provide technology support for my child	77%
If virtual school and distance learning continue, someone in my house will be able to provide learning support for my child	76%
If virtual school and distance learning continue, someone in my house will be able to provide child care during the day	74%

My child will be ready to return to school and activities, without a lot of personal or tutoring support	65%
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Number of respondents: 1,071

How concerned are you about the following:

	Top 2 box Extremely/Very concerned
Making sure my child stays on track in school	67%
My child's social and emotional well-being	63%
Making sure my child has friendships and personal connections	61%
Too much screen-time	54%
Juggling working remotely and monitoring my child's distance learning	48%
Technology and internet access for my child to participate in virtual school/ distance learning	44%
Figuring out what to do with my child after the school day ends	39%
Being able to afford extra childcare or afterschool programs if schools are closed	38%

Number of respondents: 1,071

Thinking about the fall, and starting a new school year, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Top 2 box Completely/Somewhat agree
All young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs	77%
Afterschool programs will allow kids to build positive relationships with caring adults and mentors	75%
The experience of coronavirus makes me appreciate school teachers and afterschool providers more than ever before	74%
Afterschool programs will keep kids safe and out of trouble	71%

Afterschool programs will provide working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe and supervised	71%
Afterschool programs will help working parents keep their jobs	71%
Afterschool programs will provide additional academic support to help children catch up and keep up in school	70%
All children deserve access to quality afterschool programs and activities this fall, even during coronavirus	67%
Afterschool programs will help parents build connections to their child's school day education	60%
The economic conditions created by the pandemic have made it difficult for me to afford placing my children in an afterschool program	49%

Number of respondents: 1,071

Do you favor or oppose public funding for programs that provide afterschool opportunities to students in communities that have few opportunities for children and youth?

Favor strongly or somewhat overall	84%
Favor strongly	45%
Favor somewhat	39%
Oppose somewhat or strongly overall	10%
Oppose somewhat	7%
Oppose strongly	3%
Don't know	6%

Number of respondents: 1,071

Do you favor or oppose public funding for programs that provide summer learning opportunities to students in communities that have few opportunities for children and youth?

Favor strongly or somewhat overall	84%
Favor strongly	46%
Favor somewhat	38%
Oppose somewhat or strongly overall	10%
Oppose somewhat	8%
Oppose strongly	2%
Don't know	6%

Number of respondents: 1,071