



This is Afterschool in Florida

In Florida, STEMS4Girls, a small nonprofit staffed by volunteers and serving predominantly low-income single-parent households, received nearly \$30,000 in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to support their programs. The funds helped STEMS4Girls expand their afterschool STEM literacy program by meeting unmet demand for affordable and convenient tutoring services, enhancing students' learning experiences through activities such as robotics, solar energy, and space activities, and establishing new relationships within the community. As a result of receiving federal funds, STEMS4Girls was able to find a larger location to double their capacity, increase the number of new students they were able to serve by 150%, and recruit and retain more collegiate tutors from nearby universities and colleges, providing them with both community service hours and a stipend. However, even with the increased capacity, they had a waitlist of approximately 60 applications. The program found that all of their students who attended the program regularly saw improvement in their math grades and 60% saw improvement in language arts.

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many Florida youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In Florida, for every child in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate if a program were available. And a national fall 2023 survey of afterschool program providers found that nearly 3 in 4 are concerned about their program's long-term funding and future. Afterschool and summer programs across Florida are accelerating students' growth, supporting students' well-being, and helping working families. To keep their doors open, these programs need additional investments at the local, state, and federal levels.

IMPROVING SCHOOL-DAY ENGAGEMENT AND REDUCING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM







A 2023 U.S. Department of Education report on 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)—local before-school, afterschool, and summer learning programs that serve more than 1.3 million students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools—found that:

7 IN 10 students in the program demonstrated an **IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN LEARNING**

NEARLY HALF of students who were **CHRONICALLY ABSENT** the previous year **IMPROVED THEIR SCHOOL-DAY ATTENDANCE**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ACCELERATE STUDENTS' ACADEMIC GROWTH AND SUPPORT THEIR WELL-BEING

Florida students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (72%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (71%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (69%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (93%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (86%)
-  Building confidence (81%)



97% of Florida parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Florida parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs **(83%)**



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe **(82%)**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of Florida parents favor public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs.



Research spanning several states shows that **EVERY \$1 INVESTED** in afterschool programs **SAVES AT LEAST \$3** by:

- ✓ Increasing kids' earning potential as adults
- ✓ Improving kids' performance at school
- ✓ Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

With strong public support, a national survey found that approximately 8 in 10 registered voters said that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity for their community (79%) and that they want their federal, state, and local leaders to provide more funding for programs (80%).

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) 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 2023 Department of Education annual performance report of 21st CCLC found that among regular participants:



MORE THAN 1 IN 2 improved their GPA



7 IN 10 improved their engagement in learning



2 IN 5 saw a decrease in school suspensions

In Florida, 47,358 children in 467 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 Florida is so great that 1 out of every 3 applications was not funded during the most recent competition.

AFTERSCHOOL WORKS

Studies have shown that students regularly participating in quality afterschool programs attend school more often, are more engaged in school, get better grades, and are more likely to be promoted to the next grade. For example, in a 2023 report by the U.S. Department of Education on 21st CCLC programs nationally, Florida students in need of improvement attending afterschool programs saw academic and behavioral gains. Nearly 1 in 5 Florida 21st CCLC participants in grades 7/8 and 10-12 who had a GPA below 3.0 the previous year improved their GPA (19%). And more than 1 in 4 students in grades 4 through 8 demonstrated growth on the state's reading/language arts (26%) and math (28%) assessments. Additionally, teachers reported that 70% of their students attending 21st CCLC programs improved their engagement in learning. Among students with an attendance rate below 90% the previous school year, 60% improved their school-day attendance. Florida 21st CCLC students also saw improvements in behavior, with 84% of students experiencing a decrease in in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.

