

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

This is Afterschool in Illinois



Afterschool Alliance

March 2020

After the school day ends in Illinois, 1 in 5 kids are alone and unsupervised. These hours—from 2 to 6 p.m.—are the peak time for juvenile crime in Illinois 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 404,791 children in afterschool programs in Illinois, 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



74% of Illinois parents agree that afterschool programs help their kids get excited about learning.



72% of Illinois parents agree afterschool programs can help kids gain STEM-related interests and skills.



70% of Illinois parents agree afterschool programs help kids gain teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking skills.



64% of Illinois parents agree that afterschool programs help students improve school day attendance.

Keeping Kids Safe and Supported



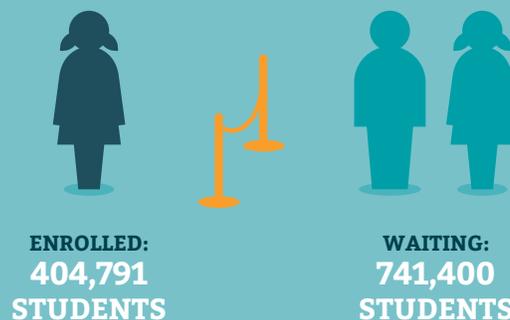
72% of Illinois parents believe afterschool programs reduce the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.



76% of Illinois parents agree that afterschool programs provide access to caring adults and mentors.

Unmet Demand for Afterschool in Illinois

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



21st 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 Illinois that **5 out of every 7 applications cannot be funded.**

A 2018 Education Development Center evaluation of Illinois' 21st CCLC programs found that based on teacher surveys among students in need of improvement, a strong majority of elementary schoolers improved their academic performance (72%), motivation to learn (64%), and classroom behavior (60%). Middle and high schoolers saw improvements in their academic performance (71%), classroom behavior (67%), and motivation to learn (62%). Additionally, 89% of programs offered students career exploration opportunities and 84% supported career skill development.

21st Century Community Learning Centers

In Illinois, 21st Century Community Learning Centers—local afterschool, before-school and summer learning programs that serve students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools—provide services for 58,591 kids and 449 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.

- **79% of Illinois** parents say afterschool programs give them peace of mind.
- **73% of Illinois** 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 21st 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

This is Afterschool
Helping kids realize their full potential.