

Afterschool Fostering Student Success in Minnesota



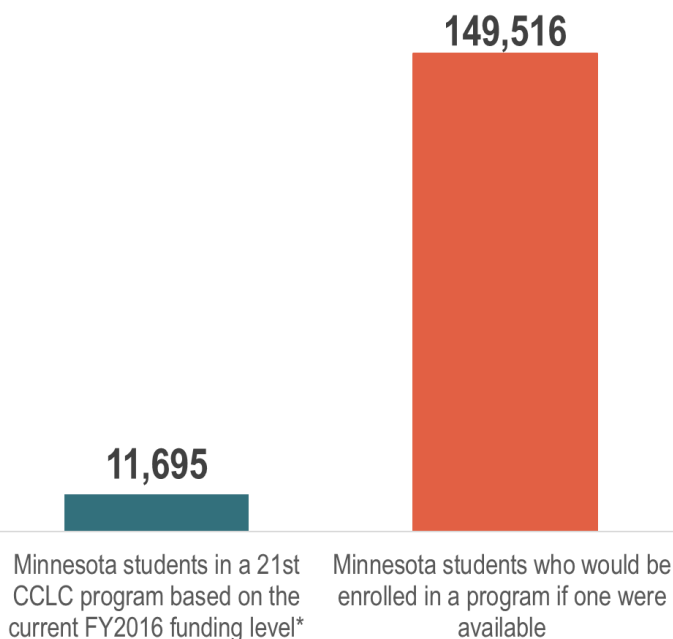
MAY 2016

In Minnesota, afterschool programs are keeping students safe, inspiring them to learn and supporting Minnesota's working families. Yet 219,277 school-age children (25 percent) in Minnesota are alone and unsupervised during the hours after school. More than a decade of research confirms that quality afterschool programs are providing rich learning experiences for students, helping to narrow existing opportunity and achievement gaps, and positioning students toward a bright future as they move through school, career and life.

The challenge.

The need for afterschool programs far exceeds the funding available in Minnesota:

In Minnesota, the 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs. Investments in 21st CCLC programs are keeping children in high-poverty, low-performing schools safe and supported; engaging them in interest-driven, academically enriching activities; and providing peace of mind to working families. However, the number of Minnesota students who would be enrolled in an afterschool program if one were available to them far outweighs the number of students who attend a 21st CCLC program, due in large part to limited federal funding for programs.



The Need for Afterschool in Minnesota:

149,516 students in Minnesota would participate in an afterschool program if one were available to them (20%).

219,277 students are on their own during the hours after school in Minnesota (25%).

The Current State of Afterschool in Minnesota:

136,041 students participate in an afterschool program (15%).

11,695* students participate in a 21st CCLC program—programs that serve children living in high-poverty areas and attending low-performing schools.

35 21st CCLC grantees are in Minnesota.

119 communities are served by a 21st CCLC program in Minnesota.

82% of Minnesota parents support public funding for afterschool programs.

Students in Minnesota's 21st CCLC afterschool programs improved their classroom behavior and attitudes toward school. Teachers surveyed reported that 60% of students participating in the 21st CCLC programs improved in coming to school more motivated to learn, 60% improved in getting along with their peers and 54% improved their behavior in class. (*Minnesota Department of Education, 2014*)

*This figure is an Afterschool Alliance calculation based on the state-allocated 21st CCLC funding and a program cost of \$1,000 per child. The program cost per child is an Afterschool Alliance estimation based on the Department of Education's per-student expenditures for: (1) all students attending 21st CCLC programs and (2) students who regularly attend 21st CCLC programs.

Why afterschool? Research shows that quality afterschool programs are:



Improving engagement in school and conduct at school

A meta-analysis of 68 afterschool studies found that students in high-quality afterschool programs attended school more often and showed improvements in their behavior compared to students not enrolled in programs. Another study spanning 35 quality afterschool programs found that students regularly participating in programs saw improvements in their work habits, demonstrated higher levels of persistence and saw reductions in reports of misconduct, such as skipping school. (*Weissberg, R.P., Durlak, J. and Pachan, M., 2010; Vandell, D.L., Reisner, E.R. and Pierce, K.M., 2007*)



Increasing academic achievement

In addition to an evaluation of 21st CCLC programs that shows that more than 1 in 3 21st CCLC students made gains in their math and English grades, a study of outcomes associated with participation in afterschool programs found that students regularly participating during the elementary school years narrowed the math achievement gap at grade five between students from high-income and low-income families. (*Department of Education, 2015; Auger, A., Pierce, K.M. and Vandell, D.L., 2013*)



Immersing students in STEM

STEM programming is becoming widespread in afterschool. In Minnesota, 73 percent of parents report that their child has STEM learning opportunities in their afterschool program and 58 percent of parents agree that afterschool programs can help children gain STEM-related interests and skills. (*Afterschool Alliance, 2015*)



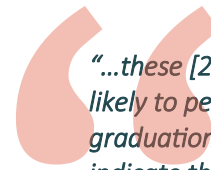
Promoting health and wellness

A national household survey commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance found that 79 percent of parents in Minnesota reported that their child's afterschool program serves snacks and/or meals and 91 percent said that it offers opportunities for physical activity. (*Afterschool Alliance, 2014*)



Supporting working families

Researchers report that parental concerns about afterschool care cost businesses up to \$300 billion per year in decreased worker productivity. In Minnesota, 71 percent of parents surveyed agree that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs. (*Catalyst and Brandeis University, 2006; Afterschool Alliance, 2014*)



"...these [21st CCLC] students are more likely to persist to high school graduation. The data and performance indicate that this broad reaching program [21st CCLC] touches students' lives in ways that will have far reaching academic impact."

- U. S. Department of Education, *An Overview of the 21st CCLC Performance Data, 2015*

The Child Care and Development Fund:

Fiscal year 2016 funding for 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 up to age 12—was \$5.68 billion. President Obama's most recent 2017 budget proposes \$82 billion over 10 years in mandatory funding to CCDF and an additional \$200 million to help states transition to the law's updated requirements, many of which go into effect this fall.

Total FY2016 CCDF funds in Minnesota:
\$139,696,830

Federal Share:
\$90,133,032

Percentage of children receiving subsidies who are school age in Minnesota:
37%