

## Key Messages + Talking Points

Use these key messages and talking points to help you effectively communicate the value of afterschool. For more information on afterschool in Minnesota, see the other resources on the *Background and Key Messaging* page of our toolkit and our *Afterschool Access Briefs*.

<p><b>For every 1 child in an afterschool program in Minnesota, 3 more children are waiting to get in.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research has shown that unsupervised time after school is the most likely time for kids to become victims of or commit crimes, or to experiment with drugs, alcohol or cigarettes</li><li>• Opportunity gap: of students who regularly participate in afterschool programming, the majority are white students or from higher-income families<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ In Minnesota, only 51% of low-income youth (compared to 69% of higher income youth) regularly participate, and students of color are less likely to regularly participate in afterschool programs</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><b>Afterschool programs unlock young people’s fullest potential and can help address the state’s achievement gap.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Youth who regularly participate in high-quality afterschool programs tend to score higher on several developmental skills indicators, such as social competence and commitment to learning</li><li>• Research shows that participation in high-quality afterschool programs also directly improves the ABCs: school <b>a</b>ttendance, <b>b</b>ehavior, and <b>c</b>ore academic performance</li></ul>
<p><b>There is a huge funding gap for afterschool programs in Minnesota – leaving families without options.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Since the 2008-2009 school year, zero state dollars have been made available for afterschool programming [as of 2022]</li><li>• Only \$7 million in federal funding was made available to Minnesota through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC) program for the most recent afterschool program cycle (2017-2022)</li><li>• With uncertainty about ongoing federal funding and changes in other funding sources, afterschool programs are unfortunately being eliminated or downsized – at a time when more kids than ever need a place to go</li><li>• Investing in afterschool programs is an investment in Minnesota’s economy and future leaders</li></ul>
<p><b>We know afterschool works. It inspires learning, supports young people on the path to college and careers, and helps working families.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Afterschool programs serve school-aged children (K-12) and encompass a broad range of areas such as academic support, mentoring, youth development, arts, and sports and recreation</li><li>• Sometimes “afterschool” is thought of as “open gym” or a replacement for child care – but it is so much more than that: across the state, afterschool programs offer a broad range of focus areas including leadership development, STEM activities, mentoring, athletics, arts, and even credit recovery</li><li>• Afterschool programming is a lifeline that helps working parents focus on their job, knowing their kids are safe<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Parents overwhelmingly say that afterschool opportunities provide security and peace of mind</li></ul></li></ul>

Sources: 2016 Minnesota Student Survey data, *The Afterschool Alliance and its America After 3PM Survey data*, "Exploring Developmental Skills, Supports, & Challenges of Minnesota Youth" report by Michael Rodriguez, & Ignite Afterschool