

# This is Afterschool in Minnesota



Afterschool Alliance

Throughout the pandemic, afterschool and summer programs adapted and expanded services to meet the needs of children and families. They are vital partners today in supporting students' well-being and academic growth. Yet, too many kids in Minnesota are being left out. Prior to the pandemic, a survey of Minnesota parents found that for every child in an afterschool program, **3 more would participate if a program were available**. These programs provide safe and supportive spaces to keep young people engaged in learning during a difficult and trying time. So it comes as no surprise that in a national fall 2020 survey, 75% of parents agreed that the experience of the pandemic made them appreciate teachers and afterschool providers more than ever before.

## Accelerating students' learning and growth

Students in afterschool programs in Minnesota are:

-  Getting homework help – **57%**
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills – **89%**
-  Taking part in STEM learning opportunities – **70%**

## Promoting healthy futures

Parents in Minnesota agree that afterschool programs are helping young people to:

-  Learn life skills – **81%**
-  Be physically active – **87%**
-  Build positive relationships with caring adults and mentors – **74%**
-  Access nutritious foods – **67%**
-  Build confidence – **80%**
-  Stay safe and out of trouble – **77%**

A 2018 evaluation by the Minnesota Department of Education found that the higher a student's attendance in Minnesota's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC afterschool programs, the more likely they were to score a "proficient" in reading and math on state assessments, in particular students in need of additional supports. For example, high-attending, limited-English-proficient students were 53% more likely to be proficient in reading and 125% more likely to be proficient in math compared to their peers with low program attendance. Participating students also reported behavioral gains; more than 8 in 10 students surveyed said the program has "helped me feel good about myself" (81%) and "helped me find out what I'm good at doing and what I like to do" (83%).

## American Rescue Plan Funding Helping Increase Access to Afterschool and Summer Programs During the Pandemic

Over the past two years, an overwhelming majority of afterschool and summer program providers have been concerned about their program's long-term funding and future. Costs associated with recruiting and retaining staff, instituting new COVID-19 health and safety protocols, and adding program space to allow for social distancing are a few of the added expenses afterschool and summer programs faced through the pandemic. Funds from American Rescue Plan present a tremendous opportunity to help afterschool and summer programs support the children and families in their communities. In Minneapolis, nearly \$1 million in state and local fiscal recovery funds were awarded to four culturally specific youth-serving organizations over the next three years through a competitive grant process: Asian Media Access, the Minneapolis American Indian Center, Minnesota African Women's Association, and WE WIN Institute. Funded activities by the organizations range from building resilience among American Indian youth through a strong sense of identity and belongingness to combining academics, community service projects, field trips, and cultural activities in fun and engaging ways.



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## Supporting working families

Parents in Minnesota agree that afterschool:

-  Helps working parents keep their jobs – **81%**
-  Helps parents build connections to their child's school day education – **59%**
-  Provides working parents peace of mind – **84%**

## A smart investment

Research spanning several states shows that every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by:

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

## Minnesota parents want investment in afterschool and summer programs

The overwhelming majority of parents in Minnesota favor public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs:

**84%**  
favor public funding  
for afterschool opportunities

**85%**  
favor public funding for  
summer learning opportunities

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) are local before-school, afterschool, and summer learning programs that serve students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools. These 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 2021 Department of Education annual performance report of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC found that among regular participants:

- 1 in 2** improved their language arts or math grades
- 7 in 10** improved their homework completion and class participation
- MORE THAN **3 in 5** improved their behavior in class

In Minnesota, **11,315 children in 90 communities** take part in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center.

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grants are the only dedicated federal funding sources that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs.

Demand for programming in Minnesota is so great that **7 out of every 10** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

## Transforming Lives

"During the pandemic, it was challenging because I was social distancing and not doing certain activities. But, my 21<sup>st</sup> Century [Community Learning Center] program has been a place where I've been able to meet new friends, communicate, and be social with others. I wasn't a talker, but now I am! The mentors in my program also helped me stay on top of my work and encouraged me. Without my program, I wouldn't have the grades I do now, and I wouldn't be as social as I am. I wouldn't be able to do a lot of things without my program."

**Kyla Anderson**

High school student attending a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center afterschool program



The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. Learn more at: [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)