

KEY MESSAGES

Think of these key messages and supporting points as a primer to help you effectively communicate the value of afterschool. For more in-depth information, please visit *Why Afterschool Matters* on igniteafterschool.org.

<p>Approximately 220,000 kids (1 in 4 Minnesota youth) are alone and unsupervised after school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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"> ○ Only 51% of low-income youth (compared to 69% of higher-income youth) regularly participate. ○ Students of color are less likely to regularly participate in afterschool programs.
<p>Afterschool programs unlock young people’s fullest potential and can help address the state’s achievement gap.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Research shows that participation in high-quality afterschool programs also directly improves the ABCs: school <u>a</u>ttendance, <u>b</u>ehavior, and <u>c</u>ore academic performance.
<p>There is a huge funding gap for afterschool programs in Minnesota – leaving families without options.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the 2017-18 school year, there were zero dedicated state dollars available for afterschool programming and only \$7 million in federal funding through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC) program. • 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. • Investing in afterschool programs is an investment in Minnesota’s economy and future leaders
<p>We know afterschool works. It inspires learning, supports young people on the path to college and careers, and helps working families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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, innovative afterschool programs offer a broad range of focus areas including leadership development, STEM activities, mentoring, athletics, arts, and even credit recovery. • Afterschool programming is a lifeline that helps working parents focus on their job, knowing their kids are safe. Parents overwhelmingly say that afterschool opportunities provide security and peace of mind.