

What is Afterschool?

Afterschool is the time when school is not in session, including before and after school, breaks and summer. For children and youth ages 5 to 18, high quality afterschool programs fill these hours with opportunity. Under the supervision of engaged adults in safe and structured environments, high quality afterschool programs offer a variety of activities such as academic enrichment and support, homework help, career exploration, service learning, sports, fitness and wellness, arts and music, civic engagement and more.

Why Afterschool Matters?

Nearly 80% of a child's time is spent outside of school. In 69% of all married couple families with children ages 6 to 17, both parents work outside of the home.¹ Nationally, 15.1 million children and youth are left alone after the school day ends; an increase of 800,000 children since 2004.² This unsupervised time puts children and youth at risk for negative outcomes.

What Works?

In the last ten years, as funding for and participation in afterschool programs has steadily increased, there has been a growing body of research demonstrating the impact of this investment on a range of outcomes. The research proves that high quality, effective afterschool programs don't just happen; they are created in collaboration with youth and staff members who know how to engage youth effectively.³

Research and evaluation point to three primary, interrelated factors that are critical for creating positive outcomes for children and youth:

1. Access to and sustained participation in the program.
2. Quality programming, particularly:
 - Appropriate supervision and structure
 - A well-prepared staff
 - Intentional programming
3. Partnerships with families, other community organizations and schools.⁴

Studies of high quality programs show positive return on investment:

- A UCLA analysis of an afterschool program in Los Angeles estimated benefits of \$2.50 for every dollar spent and this counted **only** reduced crime benefits.
- A cost benefit analysis of California's The After School and Education Act of 2002 calculated each dollar invested in an at-risk child brings a return of \$8.92 to \$12.90. Benefits are accrued from reduced child care costs, improved school performance, as well as reduced crime and welfare expenditures.⁵

Afterschool Keeps Children and Youth Safe

FACT: Juvenile crime triples during the hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.⁶

FACT: Youth in afterschool programs are 50% less likely to smoke, drink or use drugs.⁷

Afterschool Inspires Learning

FACT: The absence of summer learning programs can cause lower-income children and youth to fall more than two and a half years behind their more affluent peers by the end of fifth grade, directly contributing to higher drop-out rates and two-thirds of the achievement gap.⁸

FACT: High quality afterschool programs are proven to accelerate student achievement by increasing attendance and positive social behaviors, reductions in problem behaviors, improving school grades and test scores.⁹

Afterschool Helps Parents

FACT: Two out of five low-income working parents have significant trouble finding care beyond school-hours for their school-age children.¹⁰

FACT: 90% of parents whose children are in afterschool say their family life is less stressful because they know their children have a structured safe place to go after school.¹¹

Where Are We Now?

- 1.4 million school-age children and youth in Pennsylvania have working parents.¹²
- 26% of Pennsylvania's K-12 children are responsible for taking care of themselves after school. These children spend an average of seven hours per week unsupervised after school.¹³
- Afterschool programs are offered by a variety of providers, including school districts and other academic institutions, nonprofit and community-based organizations, child care organizations, libraries, recreation centers and faith institutions.
- 70% of afterschool participants in publically funded programs qualify for free/reduced price lunches; 7% are Limited English Proficient; and 12% have special needs/disabilities. Pennsylvania's afterschool programs are serving a high need population.
- 34% of Pennsylvania's afterschool programs said they would need to at least double their capacity to serve all the kids in their community who need afterschool programs.¹⁴

Public Support for Afterschool is High

- 87% of Pennsylvania adults surveyed believe there should be some type of organized activity for young people after school.¹⁵
- 84% of parents are satisfied with the program their children attend.¹⁶
- 32% of Pennsylvania parents whose children are not in afterschool say they would enroll their children if a program were available.¹⁷
- 83% of Pennsylvania adults surveyed support public funding for afterschool.¹⁸

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2000: National Institute on Out-of-School Time, Research on Women, Wellesley College.

² (2009). America After 3PM. Washington, DC: The Afterschool Alliance.

³ Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children. Afterschool 2010 Elections

⁴ Little, P. M. D., Wimer, C., Weiss, H. B. (2008). After school programs in the 21st century: Their potential and what it takes to achieve it. (Issues and Opportunities in Out-of-School Time Evaluation No. 10). Cambridge, MA: Harvard Family Research Project. Retrieved November 5, 2009, from <http://www.hfrp.org/out-of-school-time/publications-resources/after-school-programs-in-the-21st-century-their-potential-and-what-it-takes-to-achieve-it>.

⁵ Brown, W. O., Frates, S. B., Rudge, I. S., Tradewell, R. L. (2002). The costs and benefits of after school programs: The estimated effects of the After School Education and Safety Program Act of 2002. Claremont, CA: The Rose Institute. Claremont McKenna College.

⁶ Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

⁷ Ibid

⁸ National Center for Summer Learning

⁹ Durlak, J. A., Weissburg, R. P., & Pachan, M. (2010). A Meta-Analysis of After-School Programs That Seek to Promote Personal and Social Skill in Children and Adolescents.

¹⁰ National Institute on Out of School Time

¹¹ Afterschool Alliance

¹² Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children. (2009) Kids Counts Data.

¹³ (2009). Pennsylvania after 3 pm. Washington, DC: Afterschool Alliance. Retrieved on November 5, 2009, from http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AA3PM_2009/AA3_Factsheet_PA_2009.pdf.

¹⁴ (2009). Uncertain times 2009 – Pennsylvania: Recession imperiling Pennsylvania afterschool programs and the children they serve. Washington, DC: Afterschool Alliance. Retrieved on November 5, 2009, from http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Uncertain_Times/States2009/PA_2009.pdf.

¹⁵ (2009). Pennsylvania after 3 pm. Washington, DC: Afterschool Alliance. Retrieved on November 5, 2009, from http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AA3PM_2009/AA3_Factsheet_PA_2009.pdf.

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ (2014) Pennsylvania Partnership for Children Select Children's Investment by Departments. Retrieved March 5, 2014 from http://www.papartnerships.org/publication_files/2014-15-budget-tables.pdf

²⁰ (2014) USDOE Overview Budget State Table. Retrieved on March 5, 2014 from <http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/14stbyprogram.pdf>

²¹ (2014) Pennsylvania Partnership for Children Select Children's Investment by Departments. Retrieved March 5, 2014 from http://www.papartnerships.org/publication_files/2014-15-budget-tables.pdf

²² Ibid

Pennsylvania Funding

Traditionally, a wide variety of federal and state funding streams have supported quality out-of-school-time programming in Pennsylvania. Federal funding streams, which flow through state departments, have included Child Care Works \$190 million (Department of Public Welfare),¹⁹ 21st Century Community Learning Centers \$42.4 million (Department of Education)²⁰ and Workforce Investment Board \$53 Million (Department of Labor and Industry),²¹ among others. The major state funding investment in afterschool has primarily been Child Care Services, \$155.6 million and Child Care Assistance \$ 152.6 million (Department of Welfare) targeting children from birth up to age 13. There is no substantial state funding targeting for 13-18 year olds.²²

State investment in quality afterschool and youth development programs is critical to improve outcomes for children and youth. Actions that should be considered now include:

Support House Resolution 589, introduced by Representative Boback, that directs the Joint State Government Commission to study youth leadership and community involvement and to establish an advisory committee to conduct a comprehensive survey of existing youth development and leadership programs in this commonwealth to develop recommendations for successful collaborations.

Support the Governor's proposal for the "Ready to Learn" block grant of \$341 million so that eligible school districts and charter schools have the opportunity to use this funding to support student achievement in the afterschool hours in expanded learning opportunities, STEM education and competency based learning.

Support the Governor's proposal to increase child care services funding using expanded federal support in part to serve 2,895 children on the child care subsidy waiting list. Approximately 37% of those receiving subsidy are school age children.

Support additional investments to continue building and expanding access to a high-quality early care and school age systems. State investments in child care are nearly \$60 million less than in 2010. The commonwealth should:

- **Reinstate a fair child care reimbursement system by lifting the rate freeze** to assure that all providers are subject to the same rate for reimbursement. The current policy unfairly penalizes experienced child care providers whose state payment rates were frozen at 2009 levels, but allows new child care providers to receive payments at the maximum payment levels. Rescind the freeze effective January 1, 2015 costing a total of \$14.4 million.
- **Build on efforts to support the early childhood workforce in gaining the education and credentials they need** to provide high-quality, early learning and school age experiences for PA's children by increasing funding for the Rising STARS Tuition Assistance Program to \$9 million. Since its introduction in November 2013, over 1,200 early childhood and school age childhood educators enrolled in 2,250 courses.
- **Ensure more at-risk children have access to high-quality child care by making the next investment in the Rising STARS initiative.** This would be accomplished by increasing childcare subsidy tiered reimbursement rates for STARS 3 and 4 providers so government funding comes closer to covering the true costs of high quality care for a total of \$11.4 million.