



Afterschool Programs...Keep Kids Safe, Inspire Learning and Help Working Families.

## AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS HELP YOUTH SUCCEED AND STAY IN SCHOOL

The **strongest predictor** of whether students will drop-out of high school is poor academic performance. Other risk factors include repeating grades, low socioeconomic background, speaking English as a second language, becoming pregnant, and being frequently tardy or absent from school. (U.S. Department of Education, 2004)

Research shows that quality afterschool programs **improve student grades** and test performance, increase school attendance, improve homework completion and quality, and reduce grade retention. (Afterschool Alliance and Harvard Family Research Project, 2004)

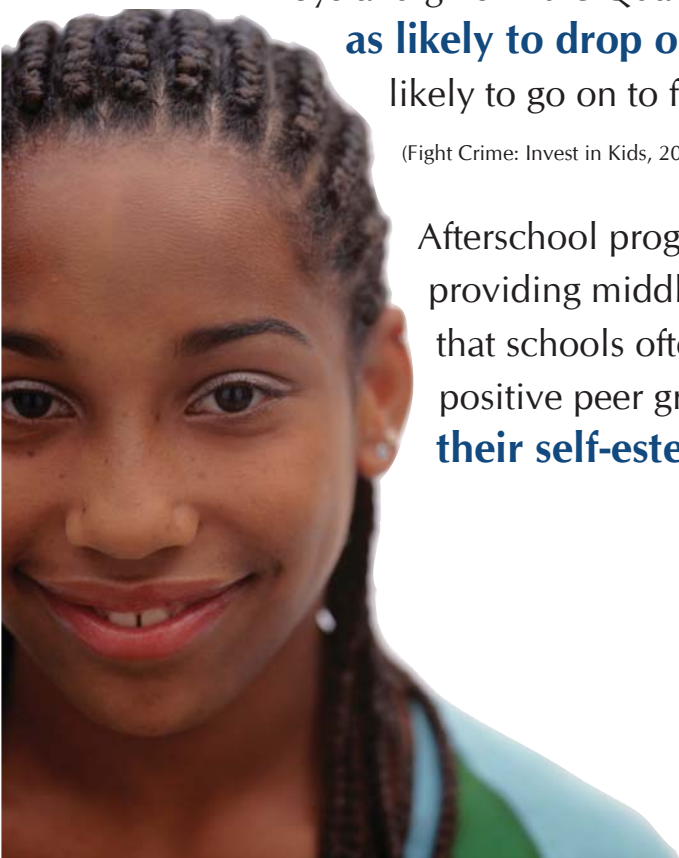
Boys and girls in the Quantum Opportunities afterschool program were **half as likely to drop out of high school** and two and one-half times more likely to go on to further education after high school than their peers.

(Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2000)

Afterschool programs can increase engagement in learning by providing middle school students with opportunities to meet needs that schools often can't, e.g., personal attention from adults, a positive peer group, and activities that hold their interest and **build their self-esteem**. (Nellie Mae Foundation, 2003)

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**The Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network (PSAYDN)** promotes sustainable, high-quality afterschool/youth development programs through advocacy and capacity building. For more information about PSAYDN or to join the Network, visit [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org).





## VOTERS SUPPORT AFTERSCHOOL AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

77 percent of voters agree that afterschool programs can play an extremely or very important role in **reducing the high school drop-out rate** by keeping high school youth interested in school. (Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates, Afterschool Alliance

Poll, November 2004)

75 percent of voters agree that afterschool programs can play an extremely or very important role in providing a **solid academic foundation** for young people to help prepare them for college and careers. (Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates,

Afterschool Alliance Poll, November 2004)

Afterschool programs can serve as an entry-point for many children and youth to both develop 21st Century skills and expand their exposure to and increase their ability to **navigate new forms of technology**. (National Institute on Out-of-School Time, 2004)

Studies suggest that youth who participate in afterschool programs **improve significantly** in three major areas:

- (1) Feelings and attitudes;**
- (2) Increased indicators of behavior adjustment which includes positive social behaviors and reduction in aggression, conduct problems, and drug use; and**
- (3) Increased school and achievement test scores.** (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, 2007)

### For more information:

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“Afterschool programs can boost students’ academic gains, help narrow the achievement gap, and support working families.”

Daniel Princiotta, Senior Policy Analyst,  
Education Division, National Governors  
Association, Center for Best Practices

