

Afterschool in Pennsylvania

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 In Pennsylvania, 346,458 kids are on their own during the hours after school.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: 74% of Pennsylvania parents agree that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs.¹¹

Where Are We Now?

- 1.4 million school-age children and youth in Pennsylvania have working parents.¹²
- 18% of Pennsylvania's K-12 children are responsible for taking care of themselves after school. These children spend an average of 8.99 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

- 79% of Pennsylvania adults surveyed believe there should be some type of organized activity for young people after school.¹⁵
- 93% of parents are satisfied with the program their children attend.¹⁶
- 50% of Pennsylvania parents whose children are not in afterschool say they would enroll their children if a program were available.¹⁷
- 85% 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. Consider supporting afterschool programs by:

Joining the newly formed Bocamaral Bopartisan Afterschool Caucus co-chaired by _____

Supporting the governor's budget proposal to use additional federal funds from the Child Care and Development Block Grant and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families to:

- Serve an additional 3,600 children on the Child Care Works waiting list (\$18 million)
- Boost Child Care Works tiered reimbursement rates for high quality Keystone Star 3 and 4 providers (\$11 million)

Sending letters to senators Casey and Toomey and your district's congressman to request continued support for dedicated funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers in the reauthorization of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Act which currently provides \$43 million dollars in funding for quality school-community-partnerships and quality afterschool programs in the commonwealth.

