



PRICHARD COMMITTEE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

STUDY • INFORM • ENGAGE

What Do We Mean By “Afterschool” Programs?

Quality afterschool programs are community-driven solutions helping students, families, and employers be successful by keeping kids safe, inspiring learning, and helping parents stay employed. These programs can provide academic support, arts and cultural enrichment, workforce development, recreation, and nutrition and health services and may occur afterschool hours, during evenings, on weekends, summer break, and/or holidays.

What is the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to supporting local afterschool, before-school and summer learning programs. The program was reauthorized in 2015 as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Each state receives funds based on its share of Title I funding for low-income students. Grants support local schools and community-based organizations that provide afterschool and summer learning programs to students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools. Total federal funding in 2019 is \$1.2 billion.

The program helps students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

What are the impacts of Quality Afterschool Programs?

Quality afterschool programs have a good return on investment. [Research shows](#) a return of \$3 for every \$1 invested by:

- Increasing kids' earning potential
- Improving students' academic performance
- Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

Quality afterschool programs support academic success and close achievement gaps. [Research shows:](#)

- Helps Students Learn - Improves academic achievement in reading and math and narrows achievement gaps between high- and low-income students, significantly in math.
- Boosts School Attendance - Improves overall school attendance, reduces chronic absenteeism and reduces drop-out rates.
- Keeps Kids Engaged and Improves Foundational Skills – Improves classroom engagement and interest in learning, decreases disciplinary incidents and improves decision making.

Quality afterschool programs support the workforce and a prosperous economy.

Research shows:

- Parents lose 8 days of work and businesses lose \$300 billion annually when kids have no afterschool opportunities.
- 80% of parents say afterschool helps them stay employed.
- By increasing interest in learning and providing career enrichment opportunities, afterschool helps prepare the future workforce. Over 7 million kids nationally are exploring STEM opportunities in afterschool.

What Does Afterschool Look Like in Kentucky?

Among Kentucky's K-12 students:

- Over 104,000 are enrolled in afterschool programs of some kind
- Over 265,000 are waiting for an available program

The 21st Century Community Learning Center Program in 2019 provided **\$17.9 million in funding to support Kentucky school districts and community partners** provide afterschool services. This helps support programming for over 37,000 kids in 177 communities across the Commonwealth. But demand is so strong that 7 out of 10 applications to the program remain unfunded.

The major community partners of afterschool programs in Kentucky are public school districts, the YMCA, and the Boys & Girls Club.

Afterschool supports Kentucky students.

A 2018 evaluation of Kentucky's CCLC programs found that more than half of all students struggling academically improved in reading and math when attending afterschool. Teachers also reported vast improvements in academic performance by those students attending afterschool.

Kentucky parents support afterschool.

- 60% report afterschool help engage their children in learning and 72% say their kids have STEM opportunities in afterschool.
- 73% report afterschool helps them stay employed.
- 87% support public funding for afterschool programs.