

Support Afterschool in Illinois!



Afterschool Kidz

At Afterschool Kidz, we use re-direction, reflection and active listening to positively guide children in our program to develop personal skills in a group setting. We view this positive guidance, beginning at the individual's level, as key to developing self-esteem and a system of values for positive social development.



The Need for Afterschool

Across America, 1 in 5 kids are alone and unsupervised from 3 to 6 p.m. These are the hours when juvenile crime and victimization peak—and many parents are still at work.¹

Despite clear support for afterschool programs, 433,390 young people in our state are alone after school. For every ONE Illinois student in afterschool, TWO more would participate if a program were available.²

These children are not only unsafe and at risk—they are also losing out on important learning opportunities.

Afterschool Works!

Afterschool and summer programs help youth develop skills for the jobs of tomorrow, help youth make smart decisions and avoid risky behavior, and help youth learn and grow.³ In afterschool programs, students learn by doing. They strengthen their communication, problem solving, and teamwork skills. Afterschool is a natural vehicle for career and skill exploration, project-based learning, interaction with industry, and exposing students to the opportunities that exist for them right here in Illinois.

Research shows that students in afterschool programs also demonstrate higher academic achievement, including improved grades, attendance, schoolwork, and behavior. Afterschool and summer programs can add 1,080 hours of academic learning to a child's school year, equivalent to 144 school days.⁴

Afterschool programs also help support our current workforce by providing working parents peace-of-mind. Working parents are more likely to be able to maintain a sustainable work-life balance when they know their kids are safe and engaged in fun learning opportunities.⁵

Participation in afterschool programs inspires children to learn and connect with each other, provides parents peace of mind while they are at work knowing their children are supervised, and gives students the skills they need to land the jobs of tomorrow.



The 50 State Afterschool Network



References:

- 1 Afterschool Alliance. (2014). America after 3PM: Afterschool programs in demand.
- 2 Afterschool Alliance (2017). *Afterschool in Illinois*.
<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyStateFacts.cfm?state=IL>.
- 3 Afterschool Alliance. (2014). America after 3PM: Afterschool programs in demand.
- 4 Afterschool Alliance. (2014). America after 3PM: Afterschool programs in demand.
- 5 Afterschool Alliance. (2014). America after 3PM: Afterschool programs in demand.

Afterschool Kidz contributes to the impact of afterschool and summer programs by:

- Increasing youths' learning potential through academic enrichment activities, like tutoring and mentoring
- Providing a safe space for youth to explore leadership roles through our youth-led forums
- Improving career readiness through our 21st century skills workshops

Since 1999, **Afterschool Kidz** has served youth ages 6-18 in the West Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois. The youth served represent a community that is 65% Black, 30% Hispanic or Latino, and 5% White. Nearly 70% of youth in the community receive free or reduced-priced lunch.

Of the nearly 2,000 youth served by **Afterschool Kidz**, 98% have graduated high school and 95% were accepted into their top-choice, post-secondary education program.

Afterschool Kidz is a licensed afterschool program that offers vibrant and exciting afterschool programming that keeps youth safe and engaged in the hours after the school day ends. Our programs include youth mentoring, career exploration and skill development, academic support, and the youth council.

Afterschool Kidz offers programming year-round, Monday through Friday, from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM; including Winter and Summer breaks. Just last year, Afterschool Kidz served 200 youth, held 4 youth-led forums on college and career readiness, and developed many community-based partnerships, such as our STEM program partnership with the Museum of Science and Industry.



"My daughter LOVES Afterschool Kidz. She doesn't want to miss it, and I can't get her to leave early. She always wants to stay to the end. She has a great relationship with the instructors/leaders and other children. And she was so proud to be chosen to be a Junior Educator to be an assistant to the leaders. She felt so special and was so proud to be getting her own shirt and Jr. Educator badge." – Diana K., Parent

For the sake of Illinois' youth, I urge you to support afterschool programs!

Opportunities for Collaboration

- Support our afterschool advocacy efforts, such as securing funding streams (e.g. 21st Century Community Learning Centers and the Teen REACH program).
- You can also lend your voice and expertise by participating in an [PROGRAM NAME] event as a speaker or attendee.
- Business partners can connect with [PROGRAM NAME] to facilitate opportunities for volunteering and to share their professional expertise with students hungry for career knowledge.
- Join us for a site visit or meeting to further discuss the afterschool needs in our community.

Contact Us



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