

The Need to Grow Afterschool in Illinois

How Afterschool Programs Support Education, Safety, and the Workforce

The Afterschool Landscape

- Over 400,000 or 18 percent of youth participate in afterschool programs, and in areas of high poverty, 24 percent of youth are in an afterschool program.
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (21st CCLC)**: federally-funded afterschool program that serves primarily students kindergarten through 12th grade who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools
- Teen REACH**: state-funded afterschool program, which targets at-risk youth ages 6 to 17
- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)**: uses state funds, federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, and federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) money to support low-income families by providing child care subsidies and providing access to quality child care, early education, and after school programs.

Number of youth enrolled in Afterschool Programs in Illinois, in thousands



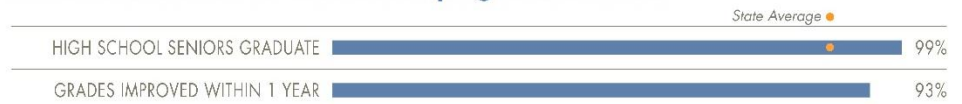
Education

- Research supports that youth who participate in afterschool demonstrate increases in their self-perceptions and bonding to school, positive social behaviors, improved school grades, and levels of academic achievement, and significant reductions in problem behaviors.
- Data collected on the 21st Century and Teen REACH programs in Illinois demonstrates how afterschool programs can improve academic outcomes.

Academic outcomes for 21st Century programs in Illinois



Academic outcomes for Teen REACH programs in Illinois



Safety

CLOSE TO ONE IN FIVE JUVENILE VIOLENT CRIMES TAKE PLACE FOLLOWING THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY BETWEEN 3:00 AND 7:00 P.M.



- Afterschool programs are helping students tackle challenging circumstances and avoid risky behaviors, teaching kids how to communicate effectively with their peers, interact positively with others, and encouraging them to believe in themselves, which helps them develop fortitude and persevere through difficult situations they may face.
- A U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study found that after controlling for a variety of factors, 10th graders who spent no time in school-sponsored extracurricular activities were 27 percent more likely to be arrested than youth that spent one to four hours in a program.
- Teachers of 21st CCLC students reported that participants in middle and high school improve classroom behavior by 55 percent and elementary school students improve by 63 percent.
- Programs not only help youth to make safe choices, but they also help protect youth from becoming victims of crime. 99.85 percent of youth in Teen REACH programs were safe from violence during program hours.

Workforce Development

- Afterschool programs play a crucial role in supporting our workforce by providing child care for working families and helping youth to develop the skills they need to enter the workforce and grow our economy.
- 433,390 children in Illinois are left alone and unsupervised between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. Research estimates that parental concern about afterschool time currently costs companies between \$50 and \$300 billion in healthcare and lost job productivity each year nationwide.
- Many schools are not able to provide opportunities during the school day for all students to learn about college and career options or to develop vital 21st century workforce skills. Afterschool programs can help to fill this gap teaching the skills needed in the workforce, exposing youth to new careers, and inspiring youth to reach their full potential.
- Afterschool programs also inspire youth to pursue STEM careers, an area where the economy is growing. In socially interactive environments like afterschool programs and summer camps, young people have the freedom to explore new ideas in a low-stakes environment, which can help youth find a passion for STEM that they might not find in the normal classroom setting or might not be exposed to in under-resourced communities.

Percent of students in Illinois reaching proficiency in science by grade level

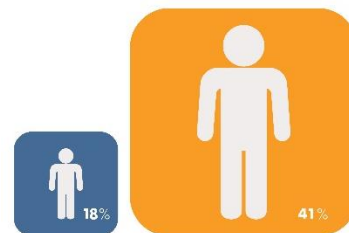
| | 4TH GRADE | 8TH GRADE | 12TH GRADE |
|--------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| BLACK | 15% | 11% | 5% |
| LATINO | 21% | 19% | 9% |
| WHITE | 51% | 47% | 29% |

A Greater State Investment



BY INCREASING KIDS' EARNING POTENTIAL, IMPROVING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, AND REDUCING JUVENILE CRIME AND DELINQUENCY, AFTERSCHOOL SAVES UP TO \$9 FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTED.

- Only 18 percent of children in Illinois participate in afterschool programs, but 41 percent of children in Illinois would participate in an afterschool program if one were available to them. Young people only spend about 20 percent of their time in school, and how they spend the other 80 percent of their time has large implications for their well-being and future.



- The current funding streams for afterschool in Illinois are not enough to fill this need. We need a greater investment in afterschool to boost academic outcomes, keep our communities safe, and to help our economy grow.
- Research and data both nationwide and in Illinois demonstrates that afterschool programs can address many of the issues Illinois faces with education, safety, and workforce.
- Not only will these programs move the needle in areas of need in our state, but they will save money in the long-term. By increasing kids' earning potential, improving academic achievement, and reducing juvenile crime and delinquency, afterschool saves up to \$9 for every \$1 invested.



ACT Now is a statewide coalition that advocates for quality and affordable afterschool programming. For more information about ACT Now or afterschool programming in Illinois, visit www.actnowillinois.org or contact ACT Now Network Lead, Susan Stanton, 312-877-0725 or stantons@metrofamily.org.