

Afterschool in Pennsylvania

pennsylvania statewide

afterschool

youth development
network

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 Nationally, 15.1 million children and youth are left alone after the school day ends; an increase of 800,000 children since 2004.² 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

Recent 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 one-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: Research indicates that participation in high quality afterschool programs improves school attendance and performance, increases expectations for the future, and helps build the skills necessary for the new global economy.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: 90% of parents whose children are in afterschool say their family life is less stressful because they know their children have a structured safe place to go after school.¹¹

Where Are We Now?

- 1.4 million school-age children and youth in Pennsylvania have working parents.¹²
- 26% of Pennsylvania's K-12 children are responsible for taking care of themselves after school. These children spend an average of seven hours per week unsupervised after school.¹³
- Afterschool programs are offered by a variety of providers, including school districts and other academic institutions, non-profit 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 percent are Limited English Proficient; and 12 percent 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

- 87% of Pennsylvania adults surveyed believe there should be some type of organized activity for young people afterschool.¹⁵
- 84% of parents are satisfied with the program their children attend.¹⁶
- 32% of Pennsylvania parents whose children are not in afterschool say they would enroll their children if a program were available.¹⁷
- 83% 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 After School Alliance

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.

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 \$165 Million (Department of Public Welfare), 21st Century Community Learning Centers \$42.2, (Department of Education), and Workforce Investment Board \$45 Million (Department of Labor and Industry),¹⁹ among others. State funding streams have included Child Care Works, Education Assistance Program (EAP), Accountability Block Grant (ABG) Funding and TEACH Scholarship Funding. Although these sources sustained no or modest cuts in this year's federal budget, they were impacted by reductions in the state budget.

- **Child Care Works – \$38.8 million cut**
Fewer low-income families are now able to receive vouchers to access quality afterschool programs for their school-age children who represent 40% of the participants in the program.
- **Education Assistance Program (EAP) – \$46.7 million eliminated**
Needed academic intervention is now no longer available to struggling students where EAP funding was an integral component of a comprehensive quality afterschool program.
- **Accountability Block Grant Funding – \$158 million cut**
Many parents of kindergartners are now struggling to find and pay for extended wrap-around afterschool programs for their children; and other students are not getting tutoring as part of their afterschool program in school districts where ABG funding was previously used for full-day kindergarten or tutoring.
- **TEACH Scholarships – \$6.4 million cut (program nearly eliminated)**
Over 500 school-age staff will not be able to complete their School-Age credential or college degree and the quality of the afterschool programs for the 7500 children they serve has been impacted.

Maintaining public funding that supports access to quality afterschool programs – even in these difficult financial times – is critically important to continue to keep kids safe, inspire learning and help working families. These programs promote the positive development and the successful transition to adulthood that all Pennsylvania children and youth deserve.

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ (2009). Afterschool programs in Pennsylvania. Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee. Retrieved on November 5, 2009, from <http://lbfic.legis.state.pa.us/reports/2009/39.PDF>.