



Afterschool: A Proven Strategy for Building a Better Vermont

Decades of research show that afterschool and summer learning programs make good economic sense and benefit everyone. It's why states across the country are now investing in these programs, why Vermont established through Act 78 a dedicated annual funding source to increase afterschool and summer program capacity, and why Vermont should continue this investment and our work toward universal afterschool: to improve outcomes for youth, address workforce challenges, ignite economic growth, and keep communities safe.



Keeping Kids and Communities Safe

Afterschool and summer programs keep kids and communities safe by helping them make smart choices and avoid risky activities—both online and offline. Among Vermont parents:

- **77%** say afterschool programs keep kids safe and out of trouble
- **65%** agree afterschool programs help kids avoid risky behaviors



Ensuring Career Readiness

Afterschool and summer programs help students gain real-world work experience and build the skills employers crave like teamwork, communication, and critical thinking. Among Vermont parents:

- **77%** agree that programs provide kids opportunities to learn skills like communication and teamwork
- **72%** agree that programs help kids gain interest and skills in STEM



Addressing Workforce Challenges

When parents worry about what their kids are doing after school, it makes it hard for them to work—meaning U.S. businesses can lose up to \$300 billion a year! Afterschool and summer programs help parents focus on their jobs so businesses can thrive. Among Vermont parents:

- **81%** agree that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs
- **82%** agree that afterschool programs provide them peace of mind



Improving Student Outcomes

In Vermont, 23% of students are chronically absent from school, while scores on national assessments of reading and math proficiency have declined over the past decade. Students who regularly participate in quality afterschool and summer programs:

- **Raise** reading levels and increase math scores
- **Improve** their school attendance, work habits, and grades
- Are more likely to **graduate** from high school

21st Century Community Learning Centers

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) programs provide afterschool and summer opportunities for K-12 students. Young people engage in hands-on learning activities and enriching opportunities that complement what they learn during the school day. 21st CCLC also offers educational and support services to families.

A 2023 study found that among students who regularly participate:

more than
1 in 2
improved
their GPA

7 in 10
improved their
engagement in learning

2 in 5
saw a decrease in
school suspensions

In Vermont, 11,171 children in 86 communities take part in 21st CCLC. Grants for 21st CCLC are the only dedicated federal funding sources that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs.



State Investments in Afterschool and Summer Learning

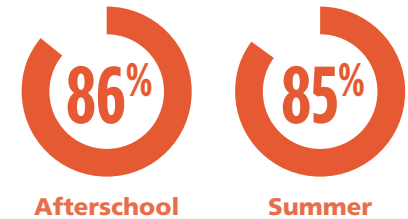
More than half of U.S. states are choosing to invest in afterschool and summer learning programs. State leaders fund these programs to address school absenteeism, boost student achievement, keep kids safe and healthy, and support working families and economic development.

How are state leaders funding afterschool and summer learning programs?

- State grants
- Workforce programs
- Lottery funds
- Cannabis tax revenue
- Tobacco and opioid settlements
- TANF and CCDGB

Afterschool programs are a smart investment!

Vermont parents support public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs.



Putting Afterschool and Summer Programs to Work in Vermont

In Vermont, for every 1 child in an afterschool program, 1 child is waiting to get in. Parents say cost, lack of programs, and transportation challenges are top barriers to participation.



Every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by:

- 1 Increasing kids' potential to earn more money in their future job
- 2 Improving kids' grades in school
- 3 Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

Connect with Vermont Afterschool to learn more about how afterschool and summer programs help kids and support working families in Vermont.



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