

Investing in Vermont's Youth and Families

The Impact of the Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund



Vermont is working toward universal afterschool and summer for all Vermont youth. Afterschool and summer learning programs help youth learn, grow, and realize their full potential. Since making this commitment, we have invested over \$12 million in federal funds in the state's afterschool and summer field and the **Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund** is a key component.

Housed at the Agency of Education, the **Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund** was created by the legislature through Act 78 "to be used to fund grant programs for the expansion of summer and afterschool programs with an emphasis on increasing access in underserved areas of the State." By reaching all areas and all youth in our state, universal afterschool will help shape the future of Vermont.

In Spring 2024, the Vermont Agency of Education awarded:

\$3.7M

in grant funding over three years to

9

supervisory unions and

7

community-based organizations in

11

Vermont counties and it's projected to reach

4,300

youth per year



Funds were awarded across Vermont:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Addison 1 site | 7 Orange 1 site |
| 2 Bennington 1 site | 8 Orleans 1 site |
| 3 Caledonia 2 sites | 9 Washington 3 sites |
| 4 Chittenden 4 sites | 10 Windham 2 sites |
| 5 Essex 1 site | 11 Windsor 2 sites |
| 6 Franklin 2 sites | |

Youth attending these afterschool and summer programs will be involved in several different skill-building and enrichment activities such as volunteering, career and college prep workshops, academic support, STEM opportunities, social-emotional support, and more.



Afterschool and Summer Learning Matters

Afterschool and summer learning expands learning opportunities for our youth, engages them in activities that inspire creativity, and teaches them communication skills and teamwork. Decades of research shows students who regularly participate in quality out-of-school time programs:

- Improve school attendance and grades
- Make gains in reading and math
- Build workforce skills and explore careers
- Have higher graduation rates

Young people make Vermont better, and we have a collective responsibility to ensure they are active, engaged, connected, and heard. Afterschool and summer programs do that:

89% of youth said they have opportunities to be a leader in their afterschool program.

95% of youth said they felt respected by adults in their afterschool program.

89% of youth said they felt like they belonged in their afterschool program.

Looking to the Future

We are so thankful for Vermont's afterschool champions in Montpelier whose passion and efforts over the last few years made the vision of universal afterschool and summer learning a reality. In the first year alone, we saw nearly 60 applications for this funding to implement or expand programming. This is incredible! It is clear that there is a need and the energy in our state to continue to expand afterschool and summer programming throughout Vermont.

We've made great progress toward universal afterschool and summer programs, and we can build on our momentum. By continuing to fund the **Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund**, we are ensuring that every young person will have a place to go after school and over the summer, and every Vermont parent or caregiver will know their kids are safe and cared for when they can't be at home. Youth will be able to explore different careers, receive academic support, and build protective factors such as connecting with caring, adult mentors, and forming healthy friendships with their peers.



Vermont Afterschool is dedicated to strengthening programs, building partnerships, and transforming communities so that all Vermont youth are active, engaged, connected, and heard.

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Sources:

1. <https://vermontafterschool.org/universal-afterschool-in-vt-update/>
2. <https://education.vermont.gov/vermont-agency-education-announces-afterschool-grant-recipients>
3. <https://afterschoolliaison.org/documents/The-Evidence-Base-For-Afterschool-And-Summer-2021.pdf>
4. *Powered By Youth Voice: Future Directions for Afterschool Survey Report, Every Hour Counts*, <https://www.everyhourcounts.org/resource-library>