

Missouri's Afterschool PROGRAMS



In today's society, more parents are working longer hours. As a result, they have less time to help their children with homework, and children are spending more time home alone. According to a United Way of Greater Kansas City report, "Research has shown that children and youth face numerous risk factors during the after school hours, particularly when they spend that time unsupervised. During the period of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on school days, youth are more likely to commit crime, become victims of crime, experiment with drugs and alcohol, or engage in sexual activity than in any other time period."¹

Afterschool programs provide students with academic enrichment opportunities designed to reinforce and complement the regular school-day curriculum during hours outside of school (before or after school, and during the summer and holidays). These programs offer high-quality services that support student learning and growth, including youth-development activities, drug and violence prevention, academic enrichment (such as hands-on math, reading and science programs), art, music, recreation, technology, homework assistance, tutoring and mentoring, and community-service opportunities. Programs also help working parents by providing a safe learning environment for their children.

Excerpts from National Research

"When children and youth have a safe, structured environment that involves them in meaningful and engaging activities during out-of-school hours, they reap multiple benefits, including improving young people's attitudes toward school, positive social behaviors, school grades and achievement test scores. Research on quality programming also documents reduced problem behaviors from aggression and conduct problems to drug use."²

"Americans see afterschool programs as an answer. The vast majority of parents of children in afterschool programs are satisfied with the programs their children attend, and public support for afterschool programs is unusually strong.

- Nine in 10 parents (89 percent) are satisfied with the afterschool programs their children attend.
- Nine in 10 parents surveyed (91 percent) agree that there should be 'some type of organized activity or place for children and teens to go after school every day that provides opportunities to learn.'
- Eight in 10 parents (83 percent) support public funding for afterschool programs.
- Parents recognize that afterschool is more than just a safe place for kids.
- According to parents of children in afterschool, the top benefits of participation include helping with social skills, keeping kids safe, providing opportunities to be physically active and helping their child succeed in school."³

"American students trail children of other nations in math and science," said Dr. Paul Young, president and CEO of the National AfterSchool Association. "That's both a disservice to them and a threat to our nation's future as an economic power and even a viable, vibrant economy. The key to turning that around is to engage kids and get them excited about science, technology, engineering and math. That's a task uniquely suited to afterschool and summer learning programs because they don't have to teach to the test, but instead have the time and space for the kinds of hands-on learning that engages students."⁴ *(Continued)*

"Engaging students in afterschool activities is a **critically important strategic part in improving a school's performance**, and in **helping schools that have historically struggled go to the next level.**"

- U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

32% of Missouri's K-12 children are responsible for taking care of themselves after school.

That's

318,282 children who spend an average of nine hours per week unsupervised.³

89% of adults surveyed in Missouri ¹ agree that there should be:

"...a place for children and teens to go after school every day that provides opportunities to learn."

Children spend about **27%** of their time in school.

Research documents ¹ that quality out-of-school opportunities are linked to on-time graduation.

Current Afterschool Funding

The Office of Early and Extended Learning (within the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) currently operates two afterschool programs: 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) and School Age Community (SAC) programs. Since 2003, Missouri has received more than \$140 million in federal funding to create 21st CCLC programs that provide students with academic enrichment opportunities, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools, in order to meet state and local standards in core academic subjects (such as math, reading and science). Programming should be aligned with the schools' curricula. These 21st CCLC programs also offer students' families literacy and related educational development. Since 2003, Missouri has also received more than \$13 million in federal funding to create SAC programs providing safe environments that meet children's individual, developmental, social, leisure and academic needs.

Since 2003:

61,199 Missouri students have been served by 21st CCLC programs, and

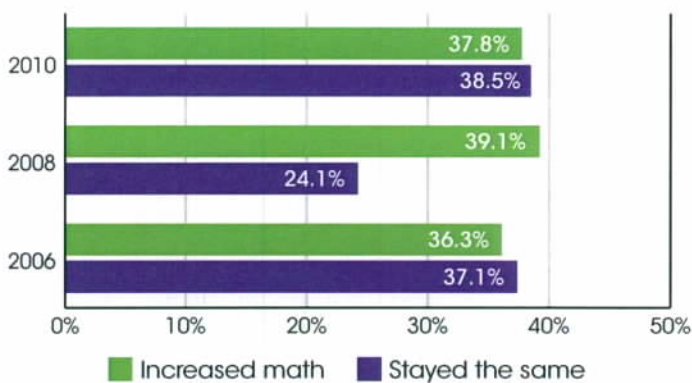
18,961 Missouri students have been served by SAC programs.⁵

How Well Are Missouri's Afterschool Programs Doing?

The Extended Learning section monitors and evaluates the quality and effectiveness of Missouri's afterschool programs. Evaluation and monitoring use capacity measures such as enrollment, demographics and attendance to understand the students and families utilizing afterschool programs. Outcome measures such as teacher surveys, grades and standardized testing determine how effective afterschool programs are at complementing the regular school day.

Student Academics

21st CCLC: Aggregate Math Grades 2006-10



21st CCLC: Aggregate Reading Grades 2006-10



Student Behavior

Students who participate in quality afterschool programs have better social and emotional relationships, not only with their peers but also with the adults in their lives. This results in fewer behavior referrals and better attendance rates than students who have no afterschool programming available. Nationally, teachers have reported that more than 75 percent of regular 21st CCLC program participants showed improvement in homework completion and class participation, while 72 percent of regular participants showed improvement in student behavior.⁶

Endnotes

1. United Way of Greater Kansas City, "Quality Matters: The Pilot Report to the Community," 2010
2. Newman, S.A.; Silverman, E.B.; Christeson, W.; & Rosenbaum, R.; Office of Policy and Planning of the City of New York, "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids New York" 2002
3. Afterschool Alliance, "America After 3PM," 2009
4. Afterschool Alliance, Afterschool Advocate (Vol. 11, Issue 12,) "2011: The Year of Science in Afterschool"
5. Dynamic Enterprise Solutions, "Kids Care Center Data Management System," 2010
6. Afterschool Alliance, "21st Century Community Learning Centers Providing Afterschool Supports to Communities Nationwide"



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