

afterschool **WORKS!**

IN MISSOURI



Afterschool and summer learning programs help Missouri's students succeed.

Afterschool programs help students do better in school, improve their work habits, and graduate. The programs engage students in enriching experiences that foster leadership, collaboration, and responsibility. In Missouri, nearly 138,000 children and teens are enrolled in an afterschool program.

Afterschool programs prepare Missouri's students for college and the workforce

Afterschool and summer learning programs can expose kids to new academic and professional opportunities, especially in the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering and math—that are critical to prepare all kids for the future.

Among Missouri parents:

- 91% are satisfied with their child's afterschool program
- 78% say it's important for their children to have summer activities that help them maintain academic skills and learn new things
- 74% say their child's afterschool program offers STEM learning opportunities
- 70% say afterschool programs help children gain workforce skills

Afterschool programs support Missouri's working parents and economy

Families across America report that the gap between work and school schedules can be up to 25 hours per week. Parental concerns about afterschool care result in missed work time and decreased productivity that costs U.S. businesses up to \$300 billion annually.

Among Missouri parents:

- 70% say that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs
- 73% agree that afterschool programs help give working parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work
- 82% support public funding for afterschool programs
- 83% support public funding for summer learning programs

Across Missouri, more than 263,000 kids are waiting for an available afterschool program, and 49% of families want their kids enrolled in a summer learning program.





We need to invest in afterschool

In Missouri and as a nation, we have much more work ahead of us to ensure that all children are afforded the opportunities afterschool and summer learning programs offer. It will take a united effort to increase the availability of quality programs to help children reach their full potential and succeed in school, college, career and beyond.

Businesses can help

- Partner with afterschool and summer programs to offer mentorships or internships to middle and high school students
- Invest in STEM activities for afterschool and summer programs
- Volunteer in afterschool programs and share simple STEM-related activities to develop interest in the careers
- Advocate for afterschool programming
- Organize a taskforce in the community to create youth services where there are gaps
- Create a Maker Space where youth and their families can discover and experiment

Policymakers can help

- Seek dedicated funding for afterschool and summer programming to establish or expand programs
- Visit an afterschool program in Missouri
- Join the 100+ Members of Congress who support the Afterschool Caucus, representing 30 million students who are enrolled or waiting for afterschool, before-school and summer learning program opportunities



Afterschool programs are a smart investment



Every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves \$9 by

- Increasing kids' earning potential
- Improving kids' performance at school
- Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

Sources

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- http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Evaluation_Backgrounder.pdf
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The Missouri AfterSchool Network builds systems across the state that improve, support, and sustain high quality afterschool programs. Our vision is that "All school age children and youth in Missouri have access to high quality, sustainable afterschool programs."

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