

# AFTERSCHOOL MATTERS

## to Florida's Children



florida children's council

## Afterschool Programs

### A Positive Impact For All Children.

**Keep children safe, out of trouble, and off the streets.** Violent juvenile crime triples between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.<sup>2</sup> and is the peak time for when children are most likely to become victims of crime, be in a car accident, smoke, drink, use drugs and engage in sexual activity.<sup>4</sup>

**Help children make educational gains.** Children make gains on math, reading and language arts standardized test scores and have improved school attendance and behavior.<sup>8</sup> Gains are especially important for low-performing or at-risk students.<sup>9</sup>

**Enable children to make life-changing social gains.** Afterschool can increase engagement in learning by providing students with opportunities schools cannot - personal attention from adults, a positive peer group, and activities that hold their interest and build self-esteem.<sup>10</sup>

**Impact high school graduation rates.** Low-income teenagers who participated in an after school program were more likely to be high school graduates (63%) compared to non-participants (42%) and more likely to go to post-secondary school (42%) compared to their non-participating peers (16%).<sup>11</sup>

**Save businesses money.** Parents miss an average of 5 days of work per year due to lack of afterschool care - costing businesses revenue and productivity upwards of \$300 billion per year across the country.<sup>12</sup> Researchers found parents with children involved with afterschool were more likely to help with homework.<sup>13</sup>

## FLORIDA FACTS

**20%** of the state's population are afterschool aged children <sup>1</sup>

More children in grades K-12 take care of themselves, unsupervised or in the care of a sibling after school than the number being educated and supervised by adults in after school programs.<sup>3</sup>

**25%** of Florida's youth do not graduate.<sup>5</sup>

Many children face significant summer learning loss and a variety of social risks - all indicators of later school failure.

Nearly

**1,000,000**

children not in afterschool would likely attend if a program were available in their community.<sup>3</sup>

Public schools are the largest provider of afterschool programs in the state, followed by YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, and religious organizations.

State funding only provides for 80,000 children to be served in the state's 21st Century Learning program and 65,000 in the School Readiness program - both federal/state partnerships aim to provide for high quality enrichment experiences for the most vulnerable children and youth.<sup>6,7</sup>



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One of the Florida Children's Council's top priorities is to adequately fund and improve afterschool programs across the state. Given the multiplier of benefits of having children supported and mentored in afterschool programs, the Council works with partners, the Florida Legislature, and community leaders to ensure all children have access to quality afterschool programming in their local community.



**Every \$1.00  
invested in high  
quality afterschool  
programs saves the  
tax payers \$3.00  
- before factoring  
in the savings from  
reduced crime.<sup>14</sup>**

## Current Research

Researchers at John's Hopkins University concluded that two-thirds of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth results from unequal access to summer learning opportunities.<sup>15</sup>

Research shows that high quality afterschool programs can lead to increased attendance, improved behavior and improved coursework.<sup>16</sup>

Afterschool participation narrows the math achievement gap for students.<sup>17</sup> When afterschool participating is consistently high during the elementary school years, there is NO gap in low-income and high-income children's math achievement at grade 5.

More time spent expanding learning in afterschool = greater benefits for youth including greater gains in academic and behavioral outcomes and reduced school absences.<sup>18</sup>

More time spent in afterschool was found to result in better work habits, improved academic performance, gains in self-efficiency, improved GPA, and increased attendance.

When youth like their afterschool program, they show improvement in the classroom including stronger task persistence and pro-social behavior with peers.<sup>19</sup>

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