

# Expanding Opportunities for Youth and Supporting Working Families

## State Investments in Afterschool and Summer Learning

Afterschool, summer learning, and other out-of-school time youth development programs expand learning opportunities for young people and help keep our businesses running. State leaders are investing in these programs to help address key issues in their states, including workforce and economic development, students' academic success, and community safety.

Decades of research demonstrate afterschool and summer learning opportunities is an effective solution with a strong return on investment.

### SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES



Many parents are working two or three jobs—or going back to school—to provide for their children. Afterschool, summer learning, and other out-of-school time programs provide a safe place for kids to go when schools let out and parents are still working. This allows parents to focus on work and be more productive on the job.

- **\$300 billion:** Parental concerns about what their children are doing afterschool results in lost productivity at work that costs U.S. businesses up to \$300 billion a year.
- **81%** of parents agree that afterschool helps working parents keep their job.
- **83%** of parents agree that afterschool programs provide working parents peace of mind.

### EXPANDING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Afterschool, summer learning, and other out-of-school time programs are designed to complement what kids learn at school and they engage students in enriching academic activities, offering young people more time for deeper learning and hands-on projects.

Students who [regularly participate](#) in quality afterschool, summer learning, and other out-of-school time programs:

- Make gains in **reading and math**.
- Improve **school attendance, work habits, and grades**.
- Have higher **graduation rates**.

### BUILDING LIFE SKILLS



Afterschool, summer learning and other out-of-school time programs are flexible and built around young people's needs and interests. Programs partner with community centers, schools, businesses, libraries, faith-based centers, and colleges to help youth connect with their community through hands-on learning experiences that help them build skills they need for future success.

Afterschool and summer learning programs:

- Help youth **build foundational skills**, such as teamwork, communication, and critical thinking, that help students in school, the workforce, and in life—over 80% of parents agree!
- Provide **opportunities within the community** to gain real-world work experience—including volunteering opportunities, apprenticeships, and internships—to practice skills that will prepare them for success on the job.

### KEEPING KIDS HEALTHY AND SAFE



Afterschool and summer learning programs keep youth safe and supervised when schools are closed. They are staffed by trained educators who help young people make smart decisions and avoid risky behaviors—both online and offline.

Nationally, on afterschool programs:

- **85%** of parents say they offer opportunities for their children to be physically active.
- **74%** of parents say they keep kids safe and out of trouble.
- **75%** of parents agree they reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors.

## STATES EXPANDING AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES



**Texas** invested **\$5 million** over 2 years through the Texas Partnership of Out of School Time (TXPOST) to implement mental health programs in community-based out of school time.



**Tennessee** uses lottery funds that since its creation in 2002 has provided **\$14 million** for comprehensive afterschool academic enrichment programs for students aged 5-18.



**Virginia** invested **\$3 million** in state funds to support comprehensive, community-based afterschool programs in their 2024-2026 state budget.



**Missouri** invested **\$7.5 million** in competitive grants for afterschool programs with a focus on comprehensive programs.



**Alabama** has invested **\$17.8 million** across a number of sources to prioritize comprehensive school-based afterschool and summer learning opportunities.



**Alaska** utilizes tax revenue from recreational cannabis, on average **\$2 million** a year, to support youth prevention through local comprehensive afterschool programs.

### PUTTING AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS TO WORK IN YOUR STATE



Nationwide, the unmet demand for afterschool is higher than ever, with nearly 25 million children waiting to enroll, often because there's no program available in their community. Parents need and want more afterschool and summer programs and research shows it proves a strong return on investment.

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

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

**Connect with the Alabama Expanded Learning Alliance to learn more about how afterschool and summer programs can expand opportunities for youth and support for working families in Alabama.**

#### Sources

<https://www.catalyst.org/research/after-school-worries-tough-on-parents-bad-for-business>

<https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/geo/National/overview>

[https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolSnack/State-budget-roundup-for-afterschool-Part-1\\_05-22-2024.cfm](https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolSnack/State-budget-roundup-for-afterschool-Part-1_05-22-2024.cfm)

Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies conducted in states that include California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.



**Contact Us**  
**Dr. Tracye Strichik**  
 Director  
 Alabama Expanded Learning Alliance

✉ [info@alabamaexpandedlearningalliance.org](mailto:info@alabamaexpandedlearningalliance.org)  
 🌐 [www.alabamaexpandedlearningalliance.org](http://www.alabamaexpandedlearningalliance.org)  
 f @AlabamaELA  
 ✕ @AlabamaELA