

# Expanding Learning and Supports For All Students

Afterschool and Summer Programs Are Essential for Equitable Recovery









## This is Afterschool in Florida





*Throughout the pandemic, afterschool and summer learning providers have pivoted their services to keep kids engaged in learning and meet the needs of millions of families in our state and nationwide. As we look ahead, these programs are uniquely positioned to help students—especially those who need extra support—catch up and accelerate their learning with the academic, social and emotional supports that kids will need for a robust recovery.*

### Proven to help young people learn, grow and thrive

Students need to feel safe and supported to re-engage in learning after this period of loss and isolation. Afterschool and summer learning programs serve a diverse range of students and focus on the whole child, offering enriching activities that engage young people in hands-on learning and encourage them to try new things. Staff are trained to help kids talk about their emotions, gain confidence, build healthy relationships, and heal from trauma. Decades of research shows that kids who participate in afterschool:<sup>1-4</sup>

-  Develop strong social skills
-  Engage in physical activity
-  Get excited about learning
-  Attend school more often
-  Make gains in reading and math
-  Improve work habits and grades
-  Explore career paths and gain workforce skills
-  Have higher graduation rates

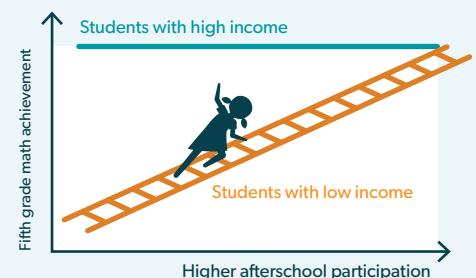
### After going to afterschool programs:<sup>5</sup>

-  **69%** of students improve their homework completion and class participation
-  **~1 in 2** students improve their math and reading grades

### All kids benefit, kids from families with low income benefit most—and the benefits last

Students who regularly attend afterschool programs continue to improve their academic performance and see meaningful benefits into young adulthood. Kids from families with low-income demonstrate the greatest gains.

Afterschool raises math achievement to an even level among elementary school students from families with low and high income.<sup>6</sup>



Students who consistently participate in afterschool during elementary school have higher grades when they transition to high school—and improved test scores in math and reading.<sup>7</sup>

Non-participants	2.64
Consistent participants	3.32

Grade point average in 9<sup>th</sup> grade (4.0 scale)





## A Critical Investment for Equitable Recovery

Rooted in local partnerships, afterschool and summer learning programs operate at the nexus of schools, families and communities to expand learning opportunities and essential supports for all kids. These programs have deep reach in low-income communities, communities of color and rural areas—they keep kids safe and make good use of buildings and playgrounds outside of school hours and while parents are working. As we recover and rebuild, these programs are more critical than ever.







## A lifeline for working families, with deep reach in historically underserved communities

Florida parents with a child in afterschool say the program:<sup>8</sup>

	Helps them keep their job	83%
	Provides a safe environment	95%
	Has knowledgeable and caring staff	93%
	Offers opportunities for physical activity	86%

Programs support millions of kids from families with low-income and kids of color.<sup>5,8</sup>

-  Offer a safe place for students from all backgrounds to gain confidence through hands-on learning experiences
-  Promote opportunity in fields where minorities and women are under-represented, such as STEM
-  Provide healthy meals and snacks
-  Connect caregivers with healthcare, employment, and other community resources



### Program Spotlight: Jacksonville Arts & Music School

From the outset of the pandemic, afterschool programs have adapted and expanded their services to best meet the needs of the children and families they serve. In Jacksonville, the JAMS program continued providing music, film, visual arts, and dance classes. Its 17,000-sf campus, which typically houses 100 students, innovated to continue serving kids and families during COVID-19 by operating at a reduced capacity.

## Rising to the moment to meet the needs of kids and families

Before the pandemic, nearly 8 million school-age youth nationwide relied on afterschool and summer learning programs.<sup>8</sup> These programs operate in all 50 states and include: 4-H clubs; Boys & Girls Clubs; YMCAs; teen leadership and service programs; summer camps; academic enrichment services; and robotics, college readiness, science and technology, sports, arts and music, and drama programs. A 2021 national survey of afterschool providers finds programs continue to provide:<sup>9</sup>

94% Academic enrichment

86% Time to interact with peers

81% Physical activity

77% Snacks or meals

32% Check-ins with student and families

24% In-person services during virtual school days\*

Looking toward the summer, 79% of providers will be offering summer programming.

*\*Among program providers that report that they are offering in-person services.*

## Invest in afterschool and summer for students' recovery—too many kids are missing out!

Before the pandemic, nearly **1.5 million Florida students** were on the afterschool waitlist and nearly 70% of families report cost of programs is a significant barrier to enrollment.<sup>8</sup>

For every Florida student enrolled in afterschool, **3 are waiting** for an available program.



The need is even greater today, as students must overcome learning losses and social isolation. Yet without support from state and local government, **3 in 5** programs nationwide are at risk of closing or laying off staff.<sup>10</sup>

Support for investment in afterschool is high among Florida parents:<sup>8</sup>



89% favor public funding of afterschool



97% are satisfied with their child's afterschool program

With federal and state COVID-19 relief funds, afterschool and summer programs can help address learning loss and re-engage students by:

- Increasing access to quality in-person programs that serve a diverse range of students, especially those who need robust academic, social and emotional supports.
- Providing tutoring, social and emotional wellness services, enrichment activities, food distribution or other efforts to meet families' basic needs.
- Addressing childhood hunger by providing meals and snacks for students.
- Supporting additional staffing and professional development to respond to the increased needs of children and families, as well as necessary COVID-19 safety procedures and wellness checks.
- Providing PPE and other safety supplies for students and staff.

**Funding priority would be given to programs in communities demonstrating the greatest need and fewest resources. This immediate relief funding for existing programs is just a start. Sustained investments are needed over time to ensure that youth across our state have access to quality out-of-school time programs.**

### Sources

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