



# Building Brighter Futures

Working together to ensure all children and youth in Florida have access to affordable, high-quality out-of-school time opportunities to foster their success in school and beyond.

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## EXPANDED LEARNING PROGRAMS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR COVID-19 RECOVERY

Afterschool and summer learning programs operate at the nexus of schools, families and communities to expand learning opportunities and provide essential supports for all children and youth. They provide more time for deeper learning, creative spaces for exploring careers, and access to caring mentors who are trained to help young people build healthy relationships and heal from trauma. Throughout the pandemic, afterschool and summer learning providers 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.

## OUT-OF-SCHOOL-TIME PROGRAMS ARE A LIFELINE FOR WORKING FAMILIES, WITH DEEP REACH IN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

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.

### Florida parents with a child in afterschool say the program:

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| • Helps parents keep their job               | 83% |
| • Provides a safe environment                | 95% |
| • Has knowledgeable and caring staff         | 93% |
| • Offers opportunities for physical activity | 86% |
| • Get kids excited about learning            | 78% |
| • Provide opportunities to build life skills | 82% |
| • Offers healthy snacks and meals            | 77% |
| • Helps improve social skills                | 93% |



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. **The need is even greater today.** That is why the Florida Afterschool Network is partnering with local school districts to help children and youth access high-quality out-of-school-time opportunities to accelerate learning. Join us today!

**INVEST IN AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING FOR STUDENTS' RECOVERY.  
TOO MANY KIDS ARE MISSING OUT!**



## JOIN OUR NETWORK

**Right now, we have the opportunity to forge a new future, enhance the learning day, and build a stronger support system that helps all children reach their full potential.** Decades of research prove OST programs are effective at helping young people do better in school, graduate, make smart choices and avoid risky behaviors. In Florida, demand for OST opportunities is high and programs are seeking partnerships with more schools, businesses, and community organizations to meet the needs of kids and families today. We are helping meet that demand. Local school districts now have the opportunity to join a statewide community of practice (CoP) to impact student achievement through OST opportunities. By leveraging American Rescue Funds dedicated to create new or expand existing afterschool programs, local school districts can help meet the learning recovery demands in their community with support, training and technical assistance from the Florida Afterschool Network. CoP participants may include:



- Complete a needs assessment and map of OST assets in their community
- Develop (or enhance) local recovery plans to include sustainable, high-quality OST programming
- Receive education on OST quality standards and the value of OST programs
- Access best practices and innovative resources to build foundational skills to help students succeed in school, the workforce and in life
- Share expertise, resources and lessons learned throughout the process
- Dedicated training and technical assistance on quality standards implementation and OST program expansion

**Established with the support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation in 2005, the Florida Afterschool Network is one of the 50 state afterschool networks dedicated to informing policy, developing partnerships, and shaping practices to ensure youth have access to quality afterschool programs. The Florida Afterschool Network brings together resources, expertise, and best practices in afterschool to improve funding and expand learning opportunities to K-12 students across the state.**

