

21st Century Community Learning Centers

Providing Locally Designed Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs for Families



Afterschool programs are locally driven solutions that help students, families, and employers get ahead. These programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help parents keep their jobs. Students in afterschool attend school more often, do better in school, gain skills for success, and are more likely to graduate.¹ But the demand for these programs far exceeds the supply. Nationwide, only one in three families who want afterschool for their children has access to programs.²

21st Century Community Learning Centers provide afterschool and summer learning opportunities in every state. Programs are selected for funding based on their ability to meet the needs of students and families and their connection to education priorities in the state. These Community Learning Centers provide:³

- ▶ opportunities for academic enrichment to meet challenging state academic standards;
- ▶ a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities, such as youth development activities; service learning; nutrition and health education; drug and violence prevention programs; counseling programs; arts, music, physical fitness and wellness programs; technology education programs; financial literacy programs; environmental literacy programs; mathematics, science, career and technical programs; internship or apprenticeship programs; and other ties to an in-demand industry sector or occupation for high school students that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students; and
- ▶ families of students with opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children's education, including opportunities for literacy and related educational development.

Community Learning Centers: the national numbers

1,682,469 children and youth served⁴

431,122 adult family members served⁴

9,556 school-based and community centers⁴

Programs stay open (on average)⁵

13.8 hours per week

5 days per week

32 weeks per year

OregonASK
Expanded Learning Partnership

www.oregonask.org

Strong Results

Having afterschool choices helps parents keep their jobs, helps students succeed, and helps ensure businesses can hire the local workforce they need to thrive.

Supporting Academic Achievement

- ▶ Regular participation in afterschool programs helped narrow the achievement gap between high- and low-income students in math, improved academic and behavioral outcomes, and reduced school absences.⁶
- ▶ Students who regularly participate in Community Learning Centers improved their school attendance, class participation and behavior, homework completion, and reading and math achievement scores and grades.^{7,8}

Supporting a Prosperous Economy

- ▶ Businesses want to hire problem solvers and team players, and they need employees with technical skills. Students learn by doing in afterschool programs and develop the skills they need for the jobs of tomorrow.
- ▶ STEM jobs are driving global economic growth—7 million students are exploring STEM in afterschool.⁹
- ▶ 8 in 10 parents say afterschool helps them keep their jobs.²

Among students regularly attending a Community Learning Center:¹⁰



Close to 1 in 3
**improved their
math and Language
Arts grades**



7 in 10
**improved their
homework completion
and class participation**



2 in 3
**improved their
behavior in class**



Regular attendance produces greater gains

A study of approximately 3,000 low-income, ethnically diverse elementary and middle school students found that those who regularly attended high-quality programs (including Community Learning Centers) for more than two years gained up to 20 percentiles in standardized math test scores compared with peers who were routinely unsupervised during the afterschool hours. Students with lower program attendance gained 12 percentiles compared with their non-participating peers.¹¹

Sources

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- 3 Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. S. 1177—182, Part B—21st Century Community Learning Centers. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114s1177enr/pdf/BILLS-114s1177enr.pdf>.
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