

# Afterschool Works IN OREGON



**Having expanded learning opportunities in afterschool and summer helps students succeed, helps parents keep their jobs, and helps ensure businesses can hire the local workforce they need.**

Students who participate in afterschool and summer learning programs attend school more often, do better in school and are more likely to graduate. These expanded learning opportunities keep young people safe and equip them with the skills they need to succeed in school and life. In Oregon, more than 90,000 children and teens are enrolled in an afterschool program.

## **Afterschool programs prepare students for college and the jobs of tomorrow**

Afterschool and summer learning programs help young people develop the skills they need for a successful future. Students across Oregon are engaging in hands-on projects, working together to tackle real-world problems, and getting connected with community projects, internships, summer jobs and mentoring experiences.

For instance:

- Regular participation in afterschool programs has been shown to narrow the math achievement gap between students from low- and high-income families.
- Students who participate in elementary school-level afterschool STEM programs demonstrate stronger interest in STEM during middle school, while interest among non-participants is more likely to decline during the middle school years

## **When parents have afterschool choices, they have peace of mind:**

- 64% of Oregon parents say that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs
- Nearly 9 in 10 Oregon parents support public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs

Among Oregon parents:

- 65% say their child's afterschool program offers learning opportunities in science, engineering and math.
- 80% say it's important for their child to have summer activities that help them learn
- 59% say afterschool programs help children gain workforce skills

**"When you connect school day and after school learning, you create valuable school and family partnerships and provide families with the tools to help students meet their goals."**

**-Lisa Kensel, Portland Council PTA President**

Across Oregon, more than 220,000 kids are waiting for an available afterschool program and 44% of families want their kids enrolled in a summer learning program.

**OregonASK**  
Expanded Learning Partnership

## We need to invest in afterschool

In Oregon, and as a nation, we have much more work ahead of us to ensure that all children are afforded the opportunities afterschool and summer learning programs offer. It will take a united effort to increase the availability of quality programs to help children reach their full potential and succeed in school, college, career and beyond.

### Businesses can help

- Partner with afterschool and summer programs to offer mentorships or internships to middle and high school students
- Support summer learning opportunities
- Invest in STEM and health and wellness activities for afterschool and summer programs
- Volunteer in afterschool and summer programs and share their expertise
- Advocate for afterschool and summer programming
- Organize a taskforce in the community to create youth services where there are gaps

### Policymakers can help

- Seek dedicated funding for afterschool and summer programming to establish or expand programs
- Visit an afterschool program in Oregon
- Join the 100+ Members of Congress who support the Afterschool Caucus, representing 30 million students who are enrolled or waiting for afterschool, before-school and summer learning program opportunities

### Community Members can help

- Tell your legislators why afterschool and summer programs matter to you
- Volunteer with afterschool and summer programs



### Afterschool programs are a smart investment



Every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves \$9 by

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

#### Sources

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OregonASK is a collaboration of public and private organizations and community members which seeks to address common issues and concerns across all out-of-school-time services- child care, recreation, education and youth development.

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