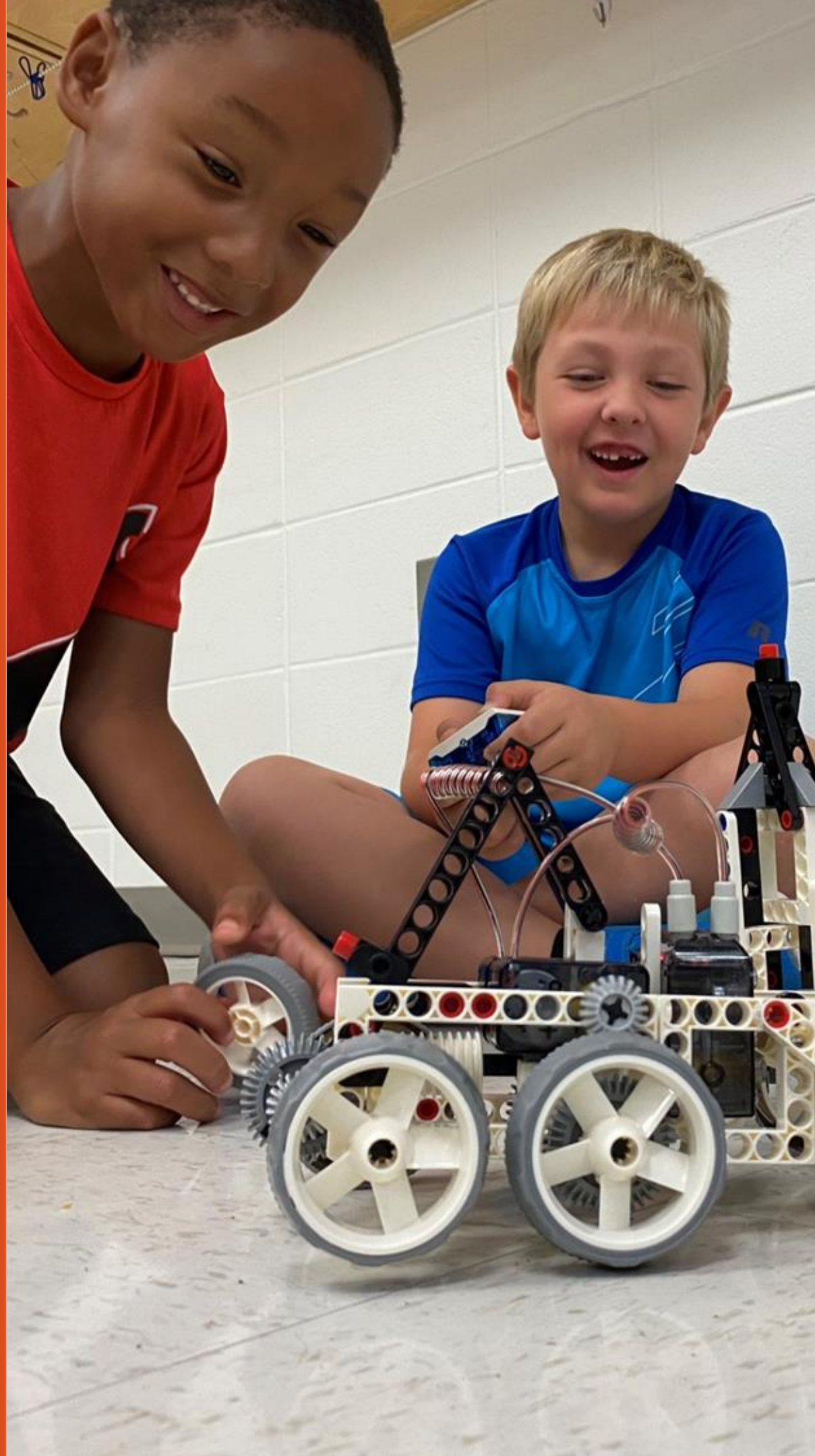




Out-of-School Time Programs Combat Chronic Absenteeism

September 22, 2025



Out-of-School Time in Georgia

Out-of-school time (OST) includes afterschool, summer learning, and weekend youth development programs.

21st CCLC

GaDOE administers the 21st CCLC program via **\$41 million in federal funding**.

Out of School Services

DFCS provides **\$15.5 million via TANF** to serve low-to-moderate income communities & youth in foster care.

BOOST

GaDOE supports access to afterschool and summer learning programs via **\$12.5 million in state funding**.

Afterschool Combats Chronic Absenteeism



Promote School
Connectedness



Promote Student
Engagement in
Learning



Promote Safety



Opportunities to
Explore Passions
and Interests



Promote Youth
Voice and
Connection



Supportive
Adults and
Mentors

Afterschool Combats Chronic Absenteeism

- **68% of students** with a school day attendance rate at or below 90% in the prior school year improved their attendance rate in the current school year while participating in Georgia's 21st CCLC program.
- Afterschool programs can **work with parents, offer youth incentives, and partner with school districts** to improve attendance.

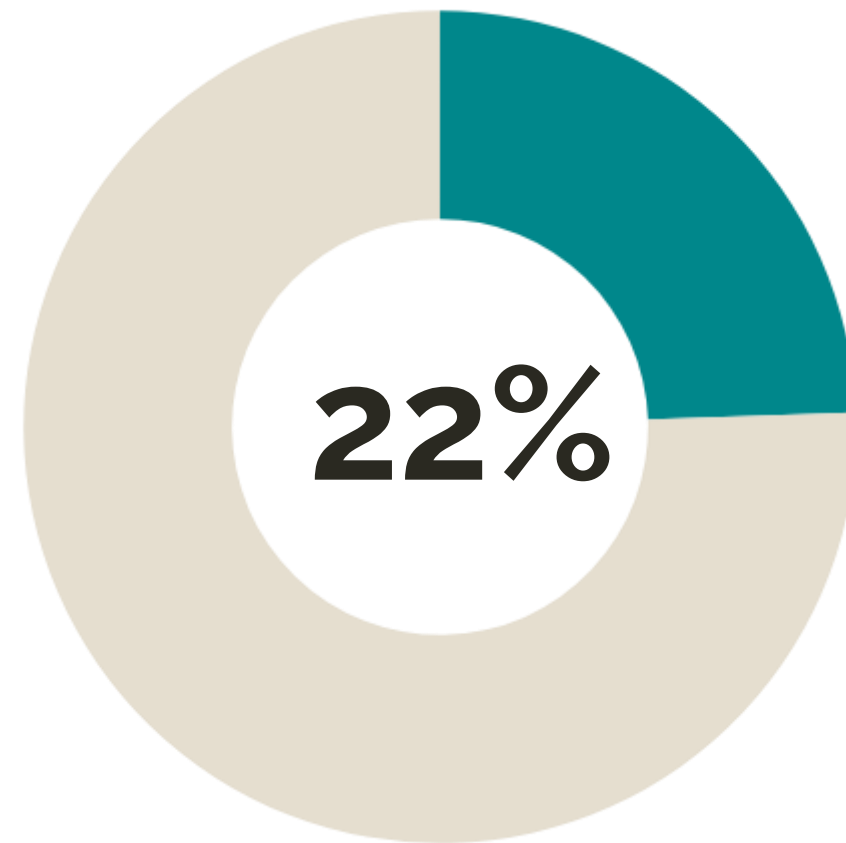
(The Expanded Learning and Afterschool Project: Building a Culture of Attendance: Schools and Afterschool Programs Together Can and Should Make a Difference!)

Summer Learning Combats Chronic Absenteeism

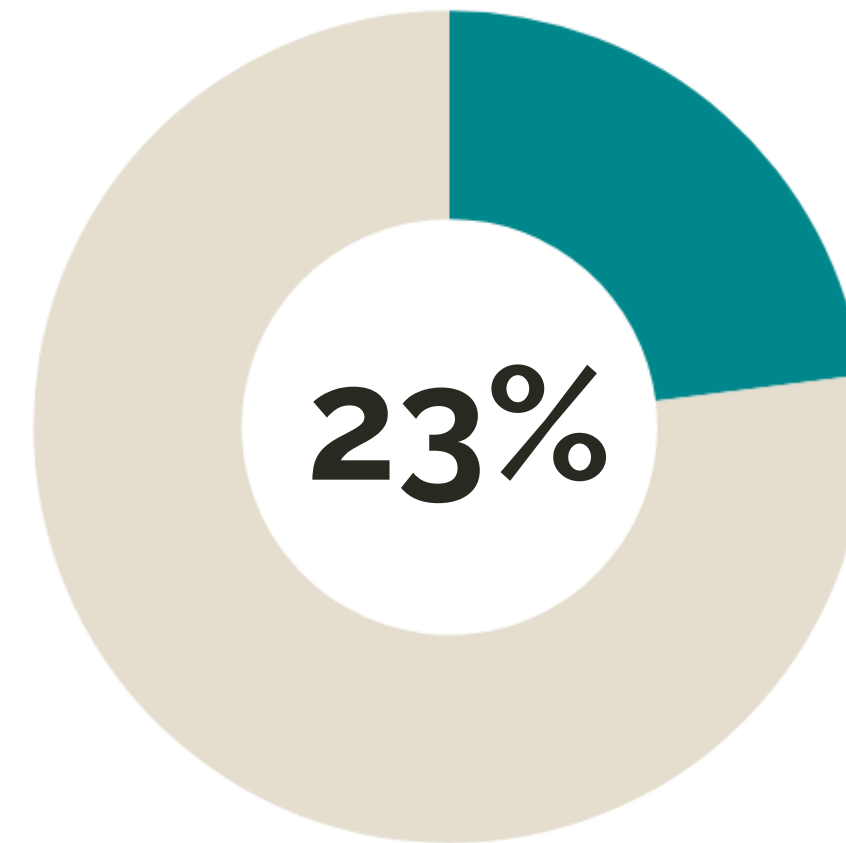
- Youth regularly participating in high quality afterschool and summer learning programs experience **improved academic outcomes, behavior, and attendance rates**. Programs can use this tool to improve student attendance. (*Attendance Works: Expanded Learning Providers*)
- Summer programs help students **avoid the summer slide and increase achievement in reading and math, improve school engagement, and reduce risky behaviors**. (*How States Are Expanding Quality Summer Learning Opportunities*)

After-school Demand Outpaces Supply in Georgia

Unmet Afterschool Demand



Unmet Tutoring Demand



Georgia leads the country in unmet demand for both afterschool and tutoring programs.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GEORGIA**



Georgia Needs Club Kids

Club Kids Need You.

**Open the door to
Academic Success.**

Our Mission

To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

State-wide Impact



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GEORGIA**

**Total Youth Served Across
Georgia:**

62,510

Total Clubs & Sites:

170



Year-Round Learning & Success



The Challenge

Today, 1 in 4 four students are chronically absent in America.



EVIDENCE *FROM* BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

- Clubs boost school attendance & effort
- More days in afterschool = stronger results
- 2024 longitudinal study:
 - 61% of ages 9–12 didn't skip school
 - 70% of teens didn't skip school
- Only 7% of Club youth chronically absent vs. 11% statewide (CT DOE Study)
- Frequent attendees (2+ times/week) = 2x less likely to be chronically absent

Attendance & Engagement



The Club Difference

Boys & Girls Clubs help more students stay on track and graduate with a plan for the future.



Year-Round Learning

- Afterschool programs in STEM, art, literacy & more
- Club kids more likely to retain math/reading skills over summer
- Higher rates of A's & B's when returning to school

College & Career Readiness

- Support with applications, financial aid, career exploration
- 2 in 3 Club seniors explore careers vs. 1 in 4 peers nationally

Graduation & Beyond

- 97% of Club teens expect to graduate high school (vs. 87% nationally)
- Over half plan to pursue a bachelor's or higher
- Helps boost adult population with advanced degrees (currently 14%)

Research Evidence



The Out of School Time Difference

Out of School Time Impact



- **Meta-Analysis (128 Studies, K–12): 41% showed improved attendance & enrollment**
- **Chicago – After School Matters program: Participants missed 7.5 days vs. peers' 9.6 days**
- **Horizons Study: Summer Learning (6,000 youth, 19 states):**
 - **4+ summers = higher attendance & less chronic absenteeism**
 - **Elementary/Middle: +1.1 pts (≈2 extra days)**
 - **High School: +3.6 pts (≈6.5 extra days)**

**Georgia Needs Club Kids
Club Kids Need You.**

Open the Door to Great Futures



**Afterschool programs
improve young people's
school-day attendance,
which is essential for
academic progress.**

Opening Doors for the Future

- **Clubs nurture the next generation of leaders**
- **Empower youth to lead, uplift others & shape tomorrow**

The Role of Support

- **Kids can't do it alone — they need voices, support & partnerships**
- **Opening the door to Clubs = opening the door to a better future**

Bridging School & Home

- **Clubs meet kids' physical & mental needs**
- **Provide critical connection between school and home thus improving attendance**





THE YMCA IS A PLACE TO BELONG



Georgia YMCAs: Building Communities Where Everyone Belongs

Our mission is to serve individuals and families across the state of Georgia through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body reflecting the values of the Judeo-Christian tradition while maintaining respect for all people.

The YMCA offers programs that support youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

The Y strives to bring about meaningful change in individuals and families across the State of Georgia through community outreach programs like hunger relief, out-of-school time, safety around water classes, and chronic disease support



Georgia YMCAs: Our Role in Addressing Chronic Absenteeism

- The Y has developed strong partnerships with local schools and districts.
- We implement daily attendance tracking and engagement strategies.
- The Y provides meaningful financial assistance.
- We prioritize positive relationship with students and families.
- Wraparound services include meals, mentoring and emotional regulation.



BY THE NUMBERS

140 YMCA OST
PROGRAMS IN
LOCAL SCHOOLS

150K COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
SUPPORTED

**2.47
M** MEALS SERVED
ACROSS
GEORGIA





Georgia YMCAs: Boost Program Outcomes

12K+
K-12 students
served annually
across Georgia

77%
Parents reporting the
program has helped their
children's learning and
preparedness for school

75%
Youth reporting
authentic
engagement and
satisfaction





Georgia YMCAs: School Partnership and Support Services

- YMCA OST programs employ certified teachers and paraprofessionals.
- Tutoring, homework help, and STEAM activities all aligned with school curricula.
- We offer on-site programs and transportation support.
- Data-sharing agreements and family engagement events.



OST Coalition:

Recommendations for Legislative Support

- BOOST 2.0: Build on the state's annual investment in community-based out-of-school time programs to \$20M.
- Expand funding for school-based health and social services.
- Support transportation and attendance incentive programs.
- Increase access to mental health services.
- School districts agree to share attendance data.





ON BEHALF OF OST COALITION, THANK YOU!

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