Learn the Facts. From education experts and law enforcement officers to parents and grandparents, Americans agree that afterschool programs make sense. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families, and improve academic achievement.

Tell Your Friends. One of the easiest things you can do to support afterschool programs is to tell others about why your community needs these programs.

Tell Your Leaders. The support of school boards or superintendents, tribal councils, mayors, or Congressional representatives can make the critical difference in the success of afterschool programs in your community.

Lend a Hand. As much as afterschool programs need money to stay alive, they also need people. You don’t have to be a teacher or education expert to help. Parents, students, and community members can volunteer to take part in the fun and learning happening in afterschool.

Afterschool IN ALASKA MATTERS

About the Alaska Afterschool Network
The Alaska Afterschool Network is a network of nonprofit, private, tribal and government organizations that promote high quality, afterschool programs as a critical component in the positive development of Alaska’s youth. The Network is the only statewide organization dedicated to increasing afterschool and expanded learning opportunities for school-age children, youth, and families in Alaska.

Mission
To support, strengthen, and advocate for quality afterschool programs and activities for children, youth, and families throughout Alaska.

Afterschool Matters

25,600 children participate in afterschool programs in Alaska.

45,000 school-age children in Alaska who do not participate in an afterschool program would be enrolled if one were available to them.1

“Afterschool” describes a variety of ‘safe, structured programs that provide children with a range of supervised activities designed to encourage learning and development outside of the typical school day.’ Programs may take place before and after school, on the weekends, during school holidays, and in the summer.2

Afterschool programs enrich children in a number of important ways, supplementing academic learning, teaching life skills, encouraging positive community involvement, and reducing many risk factors for youth.

Further, afterschool programs contribute to Alaska’s economy by not only allowing working families to more effectively participate in the workforce, but also by preparing the next generation for the workforce.

80,000

Number of Alaska children between ages six and 17 living in households in which all available parents or guardians are in the workforce.3

24% Percentage of Alaska children who are on their own after school.

19% Percentage of children participating in afterschool programs.

43% Percentage of Alaska children who do not participate in an afterschool program who would be enrolled if one were available to them.1

1Afterschool Alliance. America After 3PM! 2014.
2Little et. al. After school programs in the 21st century: Their potential and what it takes to achieve it. 2008.
3Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 2015.
Here are four ways to support afterschool programs

- **Learn the Facts.** From education experts and law enforcement officers to parents and grandparents, Americans agree that afterschool programs make sense. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families, and improve academic achievement.
- **Tell Your Friends.** One of the easiest things you can do to support afterschool programs is to tell others about why your community needs these programs.
- **Tell Your Leaders.** The support of school boards or superintendents, tribal councils, mayors, the governor, or Congressional representatives can make the critical difference in the success of afterschool programs in your community.
- **Lend a Hand.** As much as afterschool programs need money to stay alive, they also need people. You don’t have to be a teacher or education expert to help. Parents, students, and community members can volunteer to take part in the fun and learning happening in afterschool.

### About the Alaska Afterschool Network

The Alaska Afterschool Network is a network of nonprofit, private, tribal and government organizations that promote high quality, afterschool programs as a critical component in the positive development of Alaska’s youth. The Network is the only statewide organization dedicated to increasing afterschool and expanded learning opportunities for school-age children, youth, and families in Alaska.

**Mission**

To support, strengthen, and advocate for quality afterschool programs and activities for children, youth, and families throughout Alaska.

**Study funded by:**

- **act (alaska children’s trust)**
- **NCSL**

**Prepared by McDowell Group**

---

### Afterschool Matters

25,600 children participate in afterschool programs in Alaska.

45,000 school-age children in Alaska who do not participate in an afterschool program would be enrolled if one were available to them.¹

“Afterschool” describes a variety of ‘safe, structured programs that provide children with a range of supervised activities designed to encourage learning and development outside of the typical school day.’ Programs may take place before and after school, on the weekends, during school holidays, and in the summer.²

Afterschool programs enrich children in a number of important ways, supplementing academic learning, teaching life skills, encouraging positive community involvement, and reducing many risk factors for youth.

Further, afterschool programs contribute to Alaska’s economy by not only allowing working families to more effectively participate in the workforce, but also by preparing the next generation for the workforce.

80,000

Number of Alaska children between ages six and 17 living in households in which all available parents or guardians are in the workforce.³

24%

Percentage of Alaska children who are on their own after school.

19%

Percentage of children participating in afterschool programs.

43%

Percentage of Alaska children who do not participate in an afterschool program who would be enrolled if one were available to them.⁴

---

¹Afterschool Alliance. America After 3PM. 2014.
²Little et al. After school programs in the 21st century: Their potential and what it takes to achieve it. 2008.
³Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. 2015.
Afterschool programs help fight childhood hunger
90% of Alaska afterschool programs provide meals or snacks to participants.

Type of Meals Provided:
- 26% Breakfast
- 16% Lunch
- 20% Dinner
- 86% Snacks (Multiple answers allowed)

Afterschool programs provide important support to youth and families:
- Civic Engagement or Community Service
- Career & Job Exploration or Preparation
- Summer programs may add up to 80 additional school days per year.

Afterschool programs contribute to improved academic performance and higher graduation rates.
- Average improvements in reading assessments who were below proficient the previous year:
  - 38% attained proficiency in state reading assessments who were below proficient the previous year.
  - 31% attained proficiency in state math assessments who were below proficient the previous year.
  - 78% showed teacher-reported improvement in homework completion and class participation.
  - 65% showed teacher-reported improvement in student behavior.

Out-of-school time programs contribute to youth health and wellness and prevention of risk behaviors.

Afterschool programs can contribute to:
- Avoidance of drug and alcohol use
- Decreases in delinquency and violent behavior.
- Reduction in juvenile crime.
- Increased physical activity.
- Increased knowledge of nutrition and health practices.
- Enhanced leadership skills.
- Lower rates of depression and anxiety.

In an analysis of Anchorage high school student behaviors, organized afterschool activities were positively associated with reduced risk behaviors, including reduced odds of smoking, marijuana and increased odds of receiving A's or B's in school.

71% of Alaska high school students graduate within four years. This graduation rate is the third lowest of any state in the country. Afterschool programs contribute to improved academic performance and higher graduation rates. Participation in one afterschool activity for three days/week during the school year enriches a child’s out-of-school experience by the equivalent of approximately 24 additional school days per year.

An estimated 80,000 Alaska children six to 17 years of age live in households in which all available parents or guardians are in the workforce.

Afterschool programs:
- Support working families by keeping kids safe and engaged while their parents work.
- Help prepare the next generation workforce with necessary academics and life skills.

78% of Alaska parents agree afterschool programs help give working parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work.

75% of parents in Alaska agree afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs.

67% of parents agree afterschool programs help children gain workforce skills, such as teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking.

66% of Alaska parents report their child's afterschool program offers STEM learning opportunities.
Afterschool programs help fight childhood hunger

90\% of Alaska afterschool programs provide meals or snacks to participants.

**Type of Meals Provided**

- 26\% Breakfast
- 16\% Lunch
- 20\% Dinner
- 86\% Other

*Note: Among programs offering meals/snacks. Multiple answers allowed.

**Type of Program/Activity Offered**

- Social/Emotional Learning
- Sports & Recreation
- Health & Wellness
- Character Education
- STEM
- Family or Parent Activities
- Visual or Performing Arts
- Academic Enrichment
- Homework or Tutoring
- Literacy/Reading
- Mentoring
- Cultural Enrichment & Understanding
- Civic Engagement or Community Service
- Career & Job Exploration or Preparation
- Financial Literacy
- Community Drop-In Center
- Other

---

**Program Availability**

- 98\% After School
- 46\% Non-School Days
- 32\% Before School

**Physical Setting of Programs**

- 59\% School
- 25\% Community Space
- 15\% Other

*Note: Numbers may not sum due to rounding.

**Time of Year Programs Operate**

- 45\% Full Year
- 48\% School Year Only
- 6\% Summer Only

---

**Average Student Enrollment in Afterschool Programs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>1st Grade</th>
<th>2nd Grade</th>
<th>3rd Grade</th>
<th>4th Grade</th>
<th>5th Grade</th>
<th>6th Grade</th>
<th>7th Grade</th>
<th>8th Grade</th>
<th>9th Grade</th>
<th>10th Grade</th>
<th>11th Grade</th>
<th>12th Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Min. GPA</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max. GPA</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percent of Programs that Serve Each Grade Level**

- 64\% 1st Grade
- 91\% 2nd Grade
- 88\% 3rd Grade
- 85\% 4th Grade
- 88\% 5th Grade
- 87\% 6th Grade
- 75\% 7th Grade
- 85\% 8th Grade
- 73\% 9th Grade
- 65\% 10th Grade
- 56\% 11th Grade
- 44\% 12th Grade

**Percent of Programs that Serve Each Grade Level**

- 67\% 1st Grade
- 96\% 2nd Grade
- 86\% 3rd Grade
- 88\% 4th Grade
- 87% 5th Grade
- 75\% 6th Grade
- 42% 7th Grade
- 43% 8th Grade
- 38% 9th Grade
- 38% 10th Grade
- 36% 11th Grade
- 36% 12th Grade

---

**Out-of-school time programs contribute to youth health and wellness and prevention of risk behaviors.**

Afterschool programs can contribute to:

- Avoidance of drug and alcohol use
- Decreases in delinquency and violent behavior
- Reduction in juvenile crime
- Increased physical activity
- Increased knowledge of nutrition and health practices
- Enhanced leadership skills
- Lower rates of depression and anxiety

In an analysis of Anchorage high school student behaviors, organized afterschool activities were positively associated with reduced risk behaviors, including reduced odds of smoking, marijuana and increased odds of receiving A’s or B’s in school.

67\% of Alaska parents agree afterschool programs can help reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors, such as commit a crime, use drugs, or become a teen parent.

**71% of Alaska high school students graduate within four years.** This graduation rate is the third lowest of any state in the country.\(^1\)

Afterschool programs contribute to improved academic performance and higher graduation rates.

Participation in one afterschool activity for three days/week during the school year enriches a child’s out-of-school experience by the equivalent of approximately 24 additional school days per year.

Summer programs may add up to 80 additional school days worth of enrichment.

High quality afterschool programs have been shown to:

- Improve scores in reading and math achievement.
- Improve overall academic achievement, including test scores.
- Result in higher grades.
- Increase school attendance.
- Narrow the achievement gap between children from low-income and high-income families.\(^2\)

---

**Afterschool Alliance. America After 3PM. 2014.**

**An estimated 80,000 Alaska children six to 17 years of age live in households in which all available parents or guardians are in the workforce.**

Afterschool programs:

- Support working families by keeping kids safe and engaged while their parents work.
- Help prepare the next generation workforce with necessary academics and life skills.

78\% of Alaska parents agree afterschool programs help give working parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work.\(^4\)

75\% of parents in Alaska agree afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs.

67% of parents agree afterschool programs help children gain workforce skills, such as teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking.

66\% of Alaska parents report their child’s afterschool program offers STEM learning opportunities.

---


**Social/Emotional Learning**

INSPIRES LEARNING

SAFE & HEALTHY KIDS

SUPPORTS WORKING FAMILIES

*Note: Many programs serve multiple grade levels.

---


2. Vandell. The Achievement Gap to Real


4. 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC)
Here are four ways to support afterschool programs

- **Learn the Facts.** From education experts and law enforcement officers to parents and grandparents, Americans agree that afterschool programs make sense. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families, and improve academic achievement.

- **Tell Your Friends.** One of the easiest things you can do to support afterschool programs is to tell others about why your community needs these programs.

- **Tell Your Leaders.** The support of school boards or superintendents, tribal councils, mayors, the governor, or Congressional representatives can make the critical difference in the success of afterschool programs in your community.

- **Lend a Hand.** As much as afterschool programs need money to stay alive, they also need people. You don’t have to be a teacher or education expert to help. Parents, students, and community members can volunteer to take part in the fun and learning happening in afterschool programs.

---

**About the Alaska Afterschool Network**

The Alaska Afterschool Network is a network of nonprofit, private, tribal and government organizations that promote high quality, afterschool programs as a critical component in the positive development of Alaska’s youth. The Network is the only statewide organization dedicated to increasing afterschool and expanded learning opportunities for school-age children, youth, and families in Alaska.

**Mission**

To support, strengthen, and advocate for quality afterschool programs and activities for children, youth, and families throughout Alaska.

---

**Afterschool Matters**

**25,600** children participate in afterschool programs in Alaska.

**45,000** school-age children in Alaska who do not participate in an afterschool program would be enrolled if one were available to them.¹

"Afterschool" describes a variety of ‘safe, structured programs that provide children with a range of supervised activities designed to encourage learning and development outside of the typical school day.’² Programs may take place before and after school, on the weekends, during school holidays, and in the summer.²

Afterschool programs enrich children in a number of important ways, supplementing academic learning, teaching life skills, encouraging positive community involvement, and reducing many risk factors for youth. Further, afterschool programs contribute to Alaska’s economy by not only allowing working families to more effectively participate in the workforce, but also by preparing the next generation for the workforce.

**80,000** Number of Alaska children between ages six and 17 living in households in which all available parents or guardians are in the workforce.³

**24%** Percentage of Alaska children who are on their own after school.

**19%** Percentage of children participating in afterschool programs.

**43%** Percentage of Alaska children who do not participate in an afterschool program who would be enrolled if one were available to them.¹

---

¹Afterschool Alliance. America After 3PM, 2014.
²Little et al. After school programs in the 21st century: Their potential and what it takes to achieve it, 2008.
³Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 2015.