THE POWER OF AFTERSCHOOL IN NORTH CAROLINA
WHY AFTERSCHOOL MATTERS FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Every child in North Carolina deserves a great education, regardless of their background, income, or ZIP code. Schools can’t do it alone. Youth spend only 20% of their waking hours in school. How they invest the other 80% transforms their lives, especially for youth living in under-resourced communities.

Decades of research show that afterschool programs help kids learn, grow, and avoid risky behaviors. Programs spark interest in learning so students attend school more often, get better grades, and improve their behavior in class. Through new learning experiences, young people discover what they love to do and gain the skills they need to prepare for the jobs of tomorrow.

Out-of-school time programs are offered throughout North Carolina communities - in schools, community and faith-based centers, universities, museums, libraries, and more. They take place before school, afterschool, on weekends, holidays, and summers. For many kids, these programs are also their best chance to get a healthy meal and meet basic needs.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS GIVE PARENTS PEACE OF MIND BECAUSE THEY KNOW THEIR KIDS ARE SAFE AND ENGAGED IN FUN LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

80% North Carolina parents say afterschool programs give them peace of mind and help them keep their jobs.

86% of North Carolina parents support public funding for afterschool programs.

75% North Carolina parents believe afterschool reduces the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.

OPPORTUNITY GAP

AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS CAN ADD 1,080 HOURS OF ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT TO A CHILD’S YEAR, EQUIVALENT TO THE NUMBER OF HOURS IN 144 SCHOOL DAYS.

Yet, access is not equal. Low-income youth experience 6,000 fewer hours of enrichment and academic learning than their more affluent peers by the eighth grade (Hechinger Report, 2013).
In April of 2018, NC CAP developed a statewide, searchable database for out-of-school time programs to help NC families, schools, communities, and elected officials locate programs for their youth. The data presented below is reflective of programs registered within the NC CAP mapping database of out-of-school time programs.

**THE AFTERSCHOOL LANDSCAPE IN NORTH CAROLINA**

- **234,908** of NC's K-12 students are enrolled in afterschool programs.
- **523,140** of NC's K-12 students are waiting for an available program.
- **295,984** of NC's K-12 students are alone and unsupervised after school.

(Data Source: The Afterschool Alliance)

### Program Duration
- 29% School Year
- 11% Summer Only
- 60% Year Round

### Size of Programs
- 10% 1 to 20 YOUTH
- 26% 21 to 50 YOUTH
- 25% 51 to 100 YOUTH
- 39% 100+ YOUTH

### Grades Served by Programs
- Registered with NC CAP

- 11% K
- 22% 1st
- 26% 2nd
- 29% 3rd
- 47% 4th
- 47% 5th
- 47% 6th
- 47% 7th
- 47% 8th
- 47% 9th
- 26% 10th
- 22% 11th
- 11% 12th

### Location of OST Programs
- 47% OTHER
- 28% SCHOOL
- 22% COMMUNITY
- 3% FAITH

### Activities Offered
- 74% - Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
- 71% - Tutoring & Homework
- 69% - Literacy & Reading
- 67% - Character Education
- 59% - Health & Wellness
- 58% - Sports & Recreation
- 55% - Family & Parent Activities
- 51% - Visual & Performing Arts
- 50% - Cultural Enrichment Diversity
- 48% - Civic Engagement & Community Service
- 43% - Mentoring
- 39% - Career & Job Exploration
- 31% - College Readiness
- 26% - Academic Enrichment
- 25% - Financial Literacy
- 11% - Services for Youth w/Special Needs
THE VALUE OF AFTERSCHOOL

STUDENTS WHO REGULARLY PARTICIPATE IN QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS:
- develop strong social skills
- are excited about learning
- improve work habits and grades
- improve school day attendance
- have higher graduation rates
- explore career paths and gain workforce skills

(Data Source: The Afterschool Alliance)

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SAVE TAX DOLLARS

Every $ invested in afterschool programs saves by
- reducing crime and welfare costs
- improving kids' performance at school
- increasing kids' earning potential

(Data Source: The Afterschool Alliance)

ABOUT THE NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS (NC CAP)

The North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs is a statewide after-school and expanded learning network dedicated to increasing access to high quality afterschool and expanded learning programs for all children and youth in North Carolina, helping them to succeed in and out of school. Our work includes research and best practices in the afterschool and expanded learning environment; convening key stakeholders (national, state, and local); advocating for policies to support afterschool and expanded learning; and professional development and technical support for afterschool programs.

3725 National Drive • Suite 101 • Raleigh, NC 27612
www.ncafterschool.org • 919.781.6833
@ncafterschool