The Power of Afterschool
Making a difference in South Carolina!
Why Afterschool Matters in South Carolina

Youth spend only 20% of their waking hours in school. How they invest the other 80% will dramatically transform their lives.

On average, youth spend **7.22 hours and 3.66 days per week** in an afterschool program.

Research shows that high-quality afterschool programs improve students’ educational outcomes, school attendance, and social and emotional learning. Consistent participation in afterschool programs has also been found to lower dropout rates and help to close achievement gaps for low-income students. For older youth, regular participation in an afterschool program may also reduce risky behaviors and help them to gain skills needed for college and career. Researchers point out, however, without regular dosage, adequately trained staff, and high-quality programming, the positive social and academic outcomes from afterschool may not be fully realized.

Afterschool Programs Provide a Wide Range of Benefits to South Carolina’s Children & Families

- **68%** of parents agree that afterschool programs can help excite children about learning.
- **73%** of parents agree that afterschool programs help children gain workforce skills, such as teamwork, leadership and critical thinking.
- **73%** of South Carolina parents agree that afterschool programs can help reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors, such as commit a crime or use drugs, or become a teen parent.
- The top five activities South Carolina parents report are offered by their child’s afterschool program are **homework assistance (85%)**, opportunities for **physical activity (84%)**, beverages, snacks and/or **meals (82%)**, opportunities for **reading** or **writing (71%)** and **STEM learning** opportunities (59%).
The Afterschool Landscape of South Carolina

SIZE OF PROGRAMS

- **9 %** 1 to 20 STUDENTS
- **38 %** 21 to 50 STUDENTS
- **32 %** 51 to 100 STUDENTS
- **21 %** MORE THAN 100 STUDENTS

SC Afterschool Alliance tracks **1,457 programs** serving **100,157 South Carolina youth** daily!
Key Areas of focus for SC Afterschool Programs

Accelerate learning.
Promote healthy choices.
Create safe cities.
Build strong communities.

The Power of Afterschool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Programs Offered</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Support</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Training</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Skills</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEM</td>
<td>57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading &amp; Literacy</td>
<td>76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>College &amp; Career Readiness</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community &amp; Civic Engagement</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QUALITY.

Interactions with adults and peers through various activities are the key factors for success for SC afterschool programs.

DURATION.

Sustained participation is the key for sustained success.

INTENSITY.

Children who attend programs for at least 15 hours each week show more benefits.

100,157
Are in enrolled in SC Afterschool Programs.

330,964
Are waiting on an available program.

133,788
Are alone and unsupervised after school.
12 Dimensions of Success for SC Afterschool Programs

The SC Afterschool Alliance has adopted a solid framework for measuring STEM program quality.

We use these metrics for predictive analysis to project the positive outcome of various programs.

Each metric is designed to consider the community and demographic for which the program serves.
STEM Learning in Afterschool Works

When surveyed, students' attitudes towards STEM-related learning activities reflect substantial increases in interest.

Incorporating the success metrics are transforming the way SC students view STEM learning.

37,014 more k-12 students received some type of STEM activities and programming through the SC Afterschool Alliance’s efforts.

Students from 38 schools in rural and urban areas of South Carolina engaged in Virtual Reality, Mobile App and Gaming programs through the SC Afterschool Alliance, in partnership with It-ology.
Our Recommendations

- Establish a Statewide Quality Improvement System for afterschool programs to ensure that programs are healthy, safe and of quality.
- Increase state funding to support afterschool and summer learning programs, especially in high need areas.
- Support a Teacher Apprenticeship Pipeline Program by utilizing afterschool settings as a training ground to grow the teacher pipeline.
- Invest in high-quality college and career readiness programming in afterschool settings.

The Benefits

- Promotion of innovative best practices supporting student success and keep youth safe
- Through a registered apprenticeship program, young adults will be trained and employed to work in school-like, quality affordable programs to earn a Youth Development certification
South Carolina’s youth are excited about STEM and innovation. They like to make things, they are curious about mathematics and how things works.

The number of STEM-related jobs is increasing faster than we can keep up but new research shows that STEM afterschool programs are an effective part of the solution.

South Carolina students are adapting to technological advances and they feel confident in their ability to emerge as STEM leaders in the 21st century.

SC Students can go anywhere from here!

- 78% of students surveyed experienced a positive change in their self-reported attitudes
- 80% of students surveyed reported a positive gain in their STEM career knowledge
- 72% reported their perseverance and critical thinking skills positively increased
OUR GOAL
The overall goal of the South Carolina Afterschool Alliance (SCAA) is to establish a statewide network of diverse stakeholders that will guide, support and enable quality after school services and policies for all children and youth.

OUR MISSION
SCAA mission is to raise awareness, increase sustainability, and promote the importance of quality after school and summer learning programs.

www.scafterschool.com

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