

Afterschool Programs are the Solution!

Regular participation in high-quality afterschool programs is linked to improved attendance, behavior, and coursework. Participating students go to school more, are better behaved, get better grades, and score higher on tests than non-participating students.¹

Afterschool Programs Keep Our Students Safe

- » 23% of Iowa's K-12 children are responsible for taking care of themselves after school.² Fight Crime: Invest in Kids has identified these hours as peak hours of juvenile crime.
- » 41% of Iowa students say that their parents do not always know where they are outside of school, especially in the evenings and on weekends.³ Afterschool programs provide a place for students to go where parents know they will be safe and supported.
- » Unsupervised youth are three times more likely to use marijuana or other drugs, as well as engage in other risky behaviors such as underage drinking, sexual activity, and cigarette smoking than other teens.⁴

Afterschool Programs Support Student Learning

- » Most students lose about two months of grade-level equivalency in math skills over the summer. Low-income students also lose more than two months in reading achievement, despite the fact that their middle-class peers make slight gains.⁵
- » 70% of Iowa students reported that they spend 0-2 hours per week doing school assignments or homework outside of regular school hours.⁶ Many afterschool programs support student homework completion and some offer more targeted academic assistance for struggling students.

Afterschool Programs Help Working Families

- » 74% of Iowa children have both parents in the workforce.⁷
- » Childcare-related absences cost U.S. companies between \$50-\$300 billion in lost job productivity each year.⁸
- » 87% of working mothers say that the hours after school are when they are most concerned about their children's safety.⁹



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¹ A Meta-Analysis of After-School Programs That Seek to Promote Personal and Social Skills in Children and Adolescents, Durlak, Weissberg, and Pachan, 2010

² America After 3 PM, Afterschool Alliance, 2014

³ Iowa Youth Survey, 2012

⁴ Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2012

⁵ Why Summer Learning Deserves a Front-Row Seat in the Education Reform Arena, McLaughlin and Smink, 2010

⁶ Iowa Youth Survey, 2012

⁷ Children's Defense Fund, 2012

⁸ After-School Worries: Tough on Parents, Bad for Business, Catalyst & Brandeis University, 2006

⁹ Corporate Voices for Working Families.