

# AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMMING AS PART OF THE SOLUTION

WINTER/SPRING 2017



Iowans can do more to fully support our children, youth, and families. We know this because there are more Iowa children and youth that need or want afterschool and summer programming than are currently being served.

**86%** of Iowa's children and youth are not currently served by an afterschool program. Of those, **33%** would take advantage of an opportunity if it was available to them. **That means there is unmet demand for programming for over 136,000 CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN IOWA!**

Afterschool and summer learning is part of the solution to meeting the needs of our children and youth and economy. Afterschool and summer programs:

- » **Support working families** by filling the gap between work and school schedules with learning opportunities.
- » **Support student success** by allowing youth to explore academic content in different ways outside the classroom or giving them extra instructional time with a tutor or mentor.
- » **Develop critical workforce skills** in our young people by giving them opportunities to practice critical skills such as teamwork, writing, communication, and critical thinking through learning activities and socialization.
- » **Build important skills that support good mental and physical health** by providing prevention and wellness programming and integrating social and emotional learning into program structure.
- » **Allow students to explore STEM and literacy** in different ways to show them the breadth of each content area and allow them to practice skills necessary to be successful.
- » **Provide a healthy snack and/or meal** every day to ensure youth are receiving the nutrition critical to healthy development.
- » **Build stronger communities** by leveraging community resources through partnerships to provide dynamic, cost effective, and community-driven programming.
- » **Return investments four-fold** by investing in youth early to mitigate often expensive problems down the road.

## WHAT IS AFTERSCHOOL LEARNING?

High-quality afterschool programs serve families, children, and youth grades preK-12 to keep kids safe, help working families, and cultivate student success through intentional enrichment and academic learning opportunities before-school, afterschool, and during school breaks including summer, in schools and community- and faith-based settings. Also called: Out-of-school time, Expanded learning opportunities, Child Care, Extended Learning.

## WHAT THE LEGISLATURE MUST DO TO SUPPORT AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS:

- 1** Maintain Iowa Code section 256.26: the Before and After School Grant Program
- 2** Fully fund the Intensive Summer Reading Program
- 3** Prioritize afterschool and summer programming in STEM initiatives funded or overseen by the State



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