

Afterschool Facts: Updated for 2012

Regular participation in high-quality afterschool programs is linked to significant gains in standardized test scores and work habits as well as reductions in behavior problems among disadvantaged students.¹

Afterschool Programs Keep our Students Safe

- » 32% 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 the peak hours of juvenile crime.
- » 44% of Iowa students say that their parents did not always know where they were outside of school, especially in the evenings and 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 mathematical computation skills over the summer months. Low-income students also lose more than two months in reading achievement, despite the fact that their middle-class peers make slight gains.⁵
- » 60% of students report that they only spend 1-2 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

- » Childcare-related absences cost U.S. companies an estimated \$3 billion annually.⁷
- » 87% of working mothers say that the hours after school are when they are most concerned about their children's safety.⁸



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¹ Study of Promising After-School Programs, Vandell, Reisner, and Pierce, 2007

² America After 3 PM, Afterschool Alliance, 2009

³ Iowa Youth Survey, 2010

⁴ Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2012

⁵ The Effects of Summer Vacation on Achievement Test Scores: A Narrative and Analytic Review, Cooper, 1996

⁶ Iowa Youth Survey, 2010

⁷ Corporate Voices for Working Families

⁸ Ibid.