



# This is Afterschool in Vermont

Inspiring Students to Learn, Helping Them Make Smart Choices, and Giving Parents Peace of Mind

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 land that first job.

Kids ages 6 to 18 spend 20% of their waking hours in school. How they spend the other 80% of their time outside of school and home, known as the **"third space for learning,"** also has a big impact on their success in school, their overall well-being, and their readiness for the future.

Here in Vermont, **77%** of children ages 6-17 have all available parents in the workforce. For most families, there is a gap of 15-25 hours per week when parents are still at work and children are out of school and need supervision. This need for care is even greater during school vacation weeks and over the summer.

Studies demonstrate that more consistent time spent in afterschool activities during the elementary years is linked to narrowing the academic achievement gap. In a longitudinal study, income differences in math achievement were **eliminated** for students who had consistent afterschool activities across their K-5 years.

Afterschool and third space activities are places where youth can build social skills with peers in a low-pressure environment and also develop trusting, stable relationships with adult staff. According to the 2017 Vermont Youth Behavior Risk Survey, only 60% of high school students feel like they matter to the people in their community. For young people who participate in afterschool activities, this **measure of belonging goes up to 71%.**

## Vermont Needs More Afterschool

For every Vermont student in afterschool, **1 more would participate** if a program were available.



**ENROLLED:**  
**21,690**  
**STUDENTS**



**WAITING:**  
**22,163**  
**STUDENTS**

In 2018, the Agency of Human Services received legislative approval to spend \$600,000 over three years to increase access to afterschool programs. The funding comes from a recent tobacco settlement for Vermont.

We know Vermont needs \$2.5 million per year to make sure every family and student in who needs afterschool and summer learning can have access to these programs.

Across Vermont, 1 in 4 kids are alone and unsupervised from 3 to 6 p.m. These are the hours when juvenile crime and victimization peak—and many parents are still at work. When kids have no place to go after school, they miss out on valuable learning opportunities, parents lose eight days of work and businesses lose up to \$300 billion a year.

## Afterschool is changing that.

Afterschool programs give parents peace of mind because they know their kids are safe—online and offline—and engaged in fun learning opportunities.

For many parents, afterschool is a lifeline that helps them work without worry and balance their schedule.

- 8 in 10 Vermont parents say afterschool programs give them peace of mind and help them keep their jobs.
- 2 in 3 Vermont parents believe afterschool reduces the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.
- 88% of Vermont parents support public funding for afterschool programs.

Afterschool provides a solid return on investment. Our research shows that every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves VT taxpayers at least \$2.18 by:



- Increasing kids' learning potential
- Improving kids' performance at school
- Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

In Vermont, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grants support local afterschool and summer learning programs that serve 12,971 children and youth in 100 high needs communities.

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grants are the only dedicated federal source of support for afterschool and summer learning programs. Demand for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs in Vermont is so great that **applications are denied funding every single year.**

In a nationwide study of K-12 students who regularly attend 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, teachers report that:

- **65%** improved their class participation and homework completion
- **57%** improved their classroom behavior
- **Nearly half** improved their math and English grades

This is

**Afterschool**

**Helping Students Succeed**  
Bridges Afterschool  
Central Vermont Supervisory Union

"In just one year we watched a sixth grade student grow immensely. He is a regular attendee of Bridges Afterschool and comes almost every day. In the beginning, his coordination was not so good and he could barely kick a soccer ball. He complained every day about doing homework and would only work with a one-on-one helper. Now, this kid takes pride in his soccer skills and also mountain bikes with our program. He can get homework done on his own. His self-esteem and skills have grown a lot in the last year, and I know that his attendance at Bridges has supported this growth."

Vermont Afterschool is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs.  
[www.vermontafterschool.org](http://www.vermontafterschool.org)  
[info@vermontafterschool.org](mailto:info@vermontafterschool.org) | 802-448-3464