



Afterschool Programs...Keep Kids Safe, Inspire Learning and Help Working Families.

PENNSYLVANIA'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH SPEND 20% OF THEIR WAKING HOURS IN SCHOOL...
HOW ARE THEY SPENDING THE OTHER 80%?

26% of Pennsylvania's K-12 youth are responsible for taking care of themselves. These children spend an average of more than six hours per week **unsupervised after school**. A lack of adult supervision is linked to lower grades and test scores, higher levels of tobacco and drugs, an increased likelihood of accidents and injuries and a greater likelihood of early sexual activity.

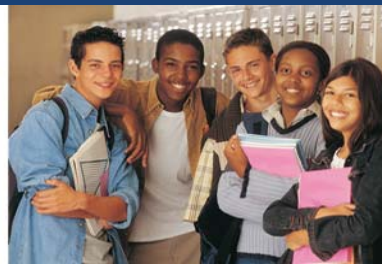
(Afterschool Alliance and National Institute on Out-of-School Time, 2004)

Just **8% of children** in Pennsylvania working families are in afterschool programs, while **28% of children** in Pennsylvania working families are latchkey kids with no adult supervision in the afternoon. (Afterschool Alliance, 2004)

Children and youth who regularly attend high-quality afterschool programs have **better grades** and conduct in school; more academic and **enrichment opportunities**; better peer relations and emotional adjustment; and lower incidences of drug-use, violence and pregnancy. (U.S. Department of Education, 2000)

The Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network (PSAYDN) promotes sustainable, high-quality afterschool/youth development programs through advocacy and capacity building. For more information about PSAYDN or to join the Network, visit www.psaydn.org.





QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS...

KEEPS KIDS SAFE

Afterschool programs are proven to reduce risk behaviors and cut crime.

- Teens who do not participate in afterschool programs are nearly 3 times more likely to use drugs and 37% more likely to become parents. (U.S. Department of Education, 2000)
- Studies show that juvenile crime and other risk behaviors like smoking, drinking, doing drugs and sexual activity are more likely to occur between 3 and 6 p.m. (Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2000)

“...Quality afterschool programs can cut crime and transform the ‘prime time for juvenile crime’ into hours of academic enrichment, constructive recreation and community service.”

Michael Carroll, Chief of Police for West Goshen Township, Chester County.

INSPIRE LEARNING

Afterschool programs help students succeed and stay in school.

- Research shows that frequent attendance in quality programs improves grades and test performance, increases school attendance, improves homework completion and quality, reduces grade retention and increases the likelihood that students will graduate from high school and go on to some type of post secondary education. (Afterschool Alliance and Harvard Family Research Project 2004)
- The strongest predictor of whether students will dropout of high school is poor academic performance. Other risk factors include repeating grades, low socioeconomic background, speaking English as a second language, becoming pregnant, and being frequently tardy or absent from school. (U.S. Department of Education, 2004)

HELP WORKING FAMILIES

Afterschool programs improve employee productivity, reduce absenteeism and support working parents.

- Pennsylvania is home to nearly 1.3 million school-age children and youth (5-18) who have working parents. (Pennsylvania KIDS COUNT, 2004)
- A study of the Extended-Service Schools Initiative found that “afterschool programs were having beneficial outcomes: 80% of parents said they were less worried about their child’s safety after school; 57% said their child’s participation helped them manage their own work schedule; 47% said it let them attend classes or job training more easily; 45% said it helped them get a better job or do a better job.” (Public Private Ventures, 2002)

For more information:

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