



# The Case for Investing in Out-of-School Time Programs

*Afterschool and summer learning programs provide transformative learning experiences that help young people discover what they love to do and reach their full potential. These programs give parents peace of mind because they know their kids are safe and engaged in fun learning opportunities.*

*Decades of research prove afterschool helps kids attend school more often, get better grades, and build foundational skills, like communication, teamwork, and problem solving.*



**In Pennsylvania, every \$1 invested in out-of-school time programs saves \$6.69 by decreasing:**

**High school dropout rate**

**Teen pregnancy**

**Substance use**

**Crime**

Source: Joint State Government Commission (2021)

For every youth enrolled in an afterschool program in Pennsylvania, **4 more are waiting to get in.**



That's **more than 775,000 children** who would be enrolled in a program if one were available to them.

Source: America After 3PM (2020)

## Helping young people learn, grow, and thrive

Students who regularly participate in quality out-of-school time programs:

-  **Develop strong social skills**
-  **Are excited about learning**
-  **Improve work habits and grades**
-  **Improve school attendance**
-  **Have higher graduation rates**
-  **Explore career paths and gain workforce skills**

## Afterschool builds workforce skills

Afterschool and summer learning programs provide students—from elementary to high school—with a ladder of supports that help them reach their full potential, offering a step up to discover who they are and what they love to do. Out-of-school time programs:

-  **Build foundational skills—such as teamwork, communication, and critical thinking skills—that will help students in school, the workforce, and in life.**
-  **Provide opportunities to gain real world work experience—including volunteering opportunities, apprenticeships, and internships.**
-  **Introduce students to new interests, opening their eyes to potential career pathways.**
-  **Give young people the space to find their voice, take ownership of projects, and be leaders.**

## Pennsylvania needs more out-of-school time programs—and sustainable funding

Too many young people in Pennsylvania are missing out on expanded learning opportunities and essential supports that out-of-school time programs provide. Families report cost, lack of transportation, and lack of access are barriers to enrollment.

We must increase access to out-of-school time programs. These investments must be prioritized, dedicated, and sustained long-term, as outlined by the Joint State Government Commission, which calls for a [dedicated funding stream for out-of-school time programs in Pennsylvania](#).

### Pennsylvania parents strongly support afterschool and rely on these programs:



**88%**

support public funding for afterschool

### Support is strong and bipartisan



89% of Democrats



91% of Independents



89% of Republicans



**SHINE (Schools and Homes IN Education)** Afterschool Program in Carbon and Schuylkill counties, a 21st Century Community Learning Center, actively partners with schools, families, and businesses to accelerate students' learning and growth. SHINE teachers align afterschool activities with school district curricula. They collaborate with classroom teachers and guidance counselors to monitor students' attendance and academic progress and ensure students who are struggling receive the extra support they need. SHINE's comprehensive 36-week program engages kids in fun, enriching hands-on activities that build literacy, leadership, and social skills. It focuses on STEM learning and helps students explore in-demand careers related to engineering, health sciences, and green energy. Seven-year data trends show that 79% of all SHINE students improved in their academic performance, according to their classroom teachers. In addition, a yearly average of 98% of SHINE students were promoted to the next grade level, and 70% of SHINE students achieved at least a "B" or 80% grade in reading and math.

The SHINE program was originally developed and implemented by Lehigh Carbon Community College in Carbon and Schuylkill counties. The model has been replicated in Luzerne, Wayne and Pike counties.

### A recent evaluation found that of elementary school students who participated in SHINE:

<b>96%</b>	were promoted to the next grade	<b>92%</b>	had satisfactory or above grades in science
<b>92%</b>	had exceptionally good or satisfactory school attendance	<b>79%</b>	improved in academic performance



**Steven Williams**, Associate Director Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network

[swilliams@csc.csiu.org](mailto:swilliams@csc.csiu.org)

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