



OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS

Building Futures for Pennsylvania Youth

Pennsylvania is home to hardworking families striving to provide a bright future for their children. Afterschool, summer learning, and other out-of-school time (OST) programs deliver essential year-round support for those families. They allow parents to work, help kids thrive, and strengthen our economy.

Afterschool Is a Workforce Strategy for Today and Tomorrow

OST supports working families because when workers have reliable care for their kids, they can be more productive on the job—and businesses benefit.



83% of Pennsylvania parents say OST provides them peace of mind while they are working



Lack of OST costs U.S. businesses up to \$300 billion a year



81% of Pennsylvania parents say OST helps working parents keep their jobs

OST is building our future workforce by connecting youth to learning opportunities that help them do better in school, build life skills, and prepare for success.



OST engages youth in real-world learning experiences, enriching activities, and career exploration



Kids who participate in quality OST make gains in reading and math and are more likely to graduate



81% of Pennsylvania parents say OST helps their kids build life skills, like communication and teamwork

It's Good Business to Invest in Afterschool

When workers have reliable care for their kids they can be more productive on the job—and businesses benefit:

9 in 10 voters say afterschool:

- ✓ Strengthens families' economic well-being
- ✓ Helps parents work
- ✓ Allows parents to provide for their families

In Pennsylvania, for every \$1 invested in afterschool programs, \$6.69 is saved by:

- ↓ Decreasing the high school dropout rate
- ↓ Decreasing teen pregnancy
- ↓ Decreasing youth substance misuse and crime

Afterschool is Building Strong Learners, Earners, and Leaders

Kids who participate in afterschool programs benefit for life!



Afterschool: Igniting a Spark

My afterschool program means a lot to me. There is a lot of gun violence in my neighborhood, and the IGNITE afterschool program has helped keep my siblings and me safe, active, and learning. Whether directing a short film or slaying monsters in Dungeons and Dragons, I've learned life skills including problem solving, teamwork, and more. I've also discovered new interests. For example, I never expected to like cooking but my afterschool program showed me how much fun it is, and even gave me the opportunity to meet real chefs who have their own restaurants. These are skills I plan to use for the rest of my life. Sadly, not everyone has the opportunity to join an afterschool program. I believe that needs to change, and I'm proud to work toward better afterschool access as a Youth Ambassador.

Jay'Len Clark-Carr (he/him), age 16
IGNITE Afterschool Program,
Philadelphia, PA

Putting OST to Work in Pennsylvania

The BOOST program is a smart investment in Pennsylvania's future. With forty-six grants already in action, it is expanding access to high-quality out-of-school time programs that provide mentorship, academic support, and career exploration. Continued state support for BOOST will help close opportunity gaps, strengthen the talent pipeline, and support working families—key priorities for a thriving Commonwealth.

Sources

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- Barnett, R. C., & Gareis, K. C. (2006). After-School Worries: Tough on Parents, Bad for Business. Catalyst and the Community, Families & Work Program, Women's Studies Research Center, Brandeis University
- A nationally representative online poll of 1,400 registered voters, administered by Lake Research Partners and New Bridge Strategy on behalf of the Afterschool Alliance, December 4-11, 2024
- 50 State Afterschool Network. (n.d.). Afterschool Outcomes Research Library. <https://50stateafterschoolnetworks.org/research-library>
- Joint State Government Commission <https://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/resources/documents/ftp/publications/2021-06-25%20Afterschool%20ROI%20Web%206.25.21.pdf>



pennsylvania statewide
afterschool
youth development
network

PSAYDN supports and advocates for sustainable, high-quality afterschool programs by drawing together key decision-makers committed to improving outcomes for youth, their families, and communities.

Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool Network
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