

Quality Afterschool Programs Help Build Lifelong Success



Students who regularly participate in quality afterschool programs can have . . .

Stronger academic performance

Afterschool programs can increase student engagement with learning by providing opportunities for attention from adult instructors or peer tutors, access to computer labs or educational technology, and fostering higher aspirations for educational attainment. Afterschool learning opportunities also have the potential to reduce the achievement gap between students of differing races, ethnicities or socio-economic backgrounds.

- ♦ According to a 2007 university study funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, minority and economically disadvantaged elementary and middle school students who regularly attended high-quality afterschool programs (alone or in combination with other activities) demonstrated significant gains over their non-participating peers including:
 - Higher standardized math test scores
 - Better work habits and lower rates of truancy
 - Reduced incidence of drug and alcohol abuse

(University of California, Irvine and University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2007)

- ♦ Children in California's LA's BEST program reported higher aspirations of finishing school and going to college. Drop-out rates among participating students are 20% lower than the overall district drop-out rate.

(University of California, Irvine, 2000 and 2006)

Better social, emotional and physical well-being

Adolescent and pre-adolescent children face significant challenges to the growth and maintenance of healthy self esteem and physical well-being. Teens who do not participate in afterschool programs are more likely to skip classes, abuse drugs, alcohol and tobacco and engage in sexual activity or delinquent behavior.

- ♦ The three-hour window between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. marks the peak time in which juvenile crime, underage drinking, drug abuse and automobile accidents involving youth occurs. Youth who have no structured, supervised activity during this window are also 37% more likely to become teen parents.

(Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2000)

- ♦ Quality afterschool programs provide enriched opportunities for students to have a more meaningful experience with the arts, creates environments in which they can interact and work cooperatively with one another, and encourages positive relationships with peers, adults and family members.

(University of California, Irvine, 2000 and 2006)

Afterschool hours *matter* . . .



The **strongest predictor** of whether students will drop out of high school **is poor academic performance**. Other key risk factors include repeating grades, low socio-economic background, speaking English as a second language, becoming pregnant, and being frequently tardy or absent from school.

U.S. Department of Education



Research has shown that **students experience learning loss** when they are not educationally engaged or occupied during significant periods of out-of-school time. In fact, some studies suggest that students' out-of-school time has as much impact on school success as time spent in the classroom.

Cooper et. al. 1999;
National Institute on Out-of-School Time, 2007.

Research shows that quality afterschool programs **improve student grades and test performance**, increase school attendance, improve homework completion and quality, and reduce grade retention.

U.S. Department of Education, National Dropout Prevention Center



Studies of model afterschool programs indicate that participating children can be as much as **50 percent less likely to drop out of high school** and more than **two and one-half times more likely to go on to further education** after high school than their peers.

Fight Crime, Invest in Kids, 2000



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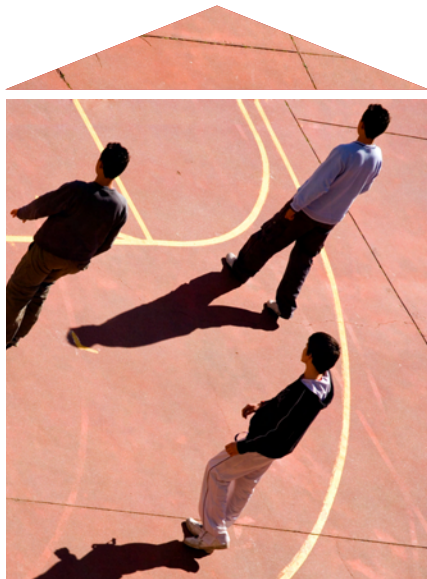
Americans value Afterschool Programs



According to recent surveys . . .

Nearly 9 out of 10 respondents expressed concern that there should be some type of organized activity or safe place for children and teens to go after school every day.

(Afterschool Alliance 2006 and 2004 National Election Eve Polls)



Americans perceive out-of-school activities as a real need. 65% of survey respondents say that afterschool programs are “**an absolute necessity**” for their own community.

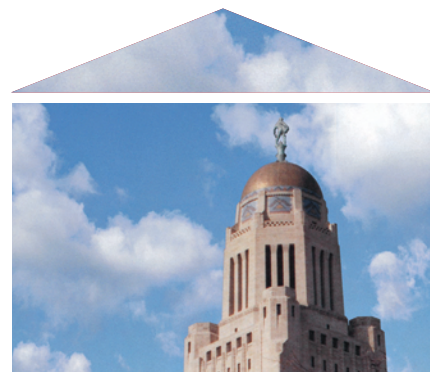
(Afterschool Alliance 2006 National Election Eve Poll)



Support for after-school crosses party and ideological lines.

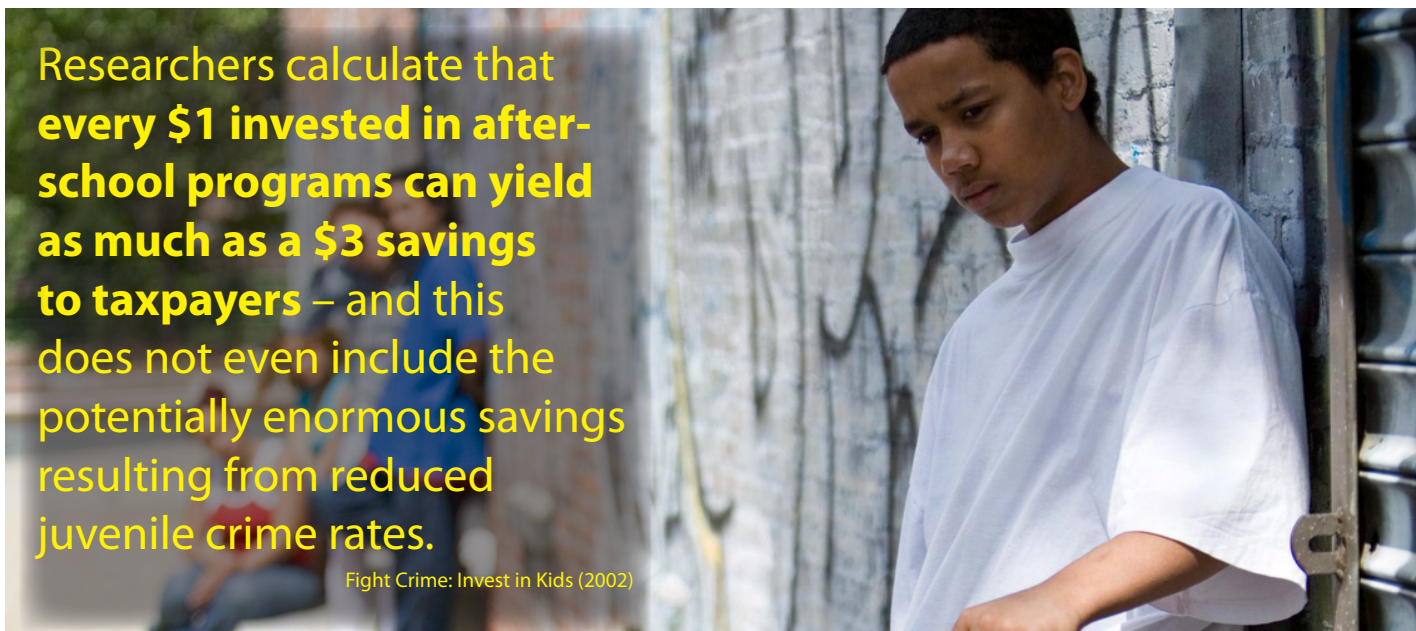
88% of Democrats, 84% of Independents and 76% of Republicans agree on the need for an organized activity or safe place for children and teens after school.

(Afterschool Alliance 2006 National Election Eve Poll)



Researchers calculate that **every \$1 invested in after-school programs can yield as much as a \$3 savings to taxpayers** – and this does not even include the potentially enormous savings resulting from reduced juvenile crime rates.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids (2002)



WORKING MOTHERS AND PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS AGREE

Nine in 10 working mothers agree with the statement: **"America could greatly reduce youth violence if Congress expanded prevention efforts like afterschool programs."** When asked which strategy would be more effective in reducing school and youth violence, **seven out of 10 mothers choose investments in afterschool programs over investments in security measures** such as metal detectors.

(Afterschool Alliance, 2006)

Seventy-one percent (71%) of chiefs of police, sheriffs and prosecutors in the U.S. favor afterschool programs for reducing youth crime and violence over hiring more officers (14.9%), prosecuting more juveniles as adults (12%) and installing more metal detectors at schools (2.3%).

(Fight Crime: Invest in Kids 2000)



Americans value . . . *

Stronger students, stronger communities

Survey respondents indicated strong beliefs that afterschool programs can address areas beyond a traditional safety and academic focus. The strongest areas for additional support include **reducing high school dropout rates, helping children and teens prepare for college, and helping build strong and safe communities.**

Safer, healthier kids

When told that kids in afterschool programs are less likely to get involved in criminal activity, use drugs or alcohol, become teen parents and drop out of school, 89% of survey respondents – including 85% of Republicans, 86% of men and 88% of people who attend a religious service every week – say **afterschool programs are very (66%) or somewhat (23%) important.**

Wider afterschool opportunities

One in three 8- to 12-year-olds are either "home alone" or "hanging out with friends" after school. **79% of boys and 84% of girls who do not currently participate in afterschool programs are interested in such activities.**

(*Afterschool Alliance National Election Eve Poll, 2006)

In Nebraska . . .

- 31 percent (103,290) of our state's K-12 youth are unsupervised during after school hours. Only 9 percent (29,987) of K-12 youth participate in afterschool programs.
- 21 percent of children who do not currently participate in an afterschool program would be likely to do so if such programs were made available to them.
- Many parents of non-participants believe that their children would benefit from afterschool programs through better social skills, improved academic achievement and safer environments.

(Afterschool Alliance/America After 3 PM Household Survey, 2002-03)



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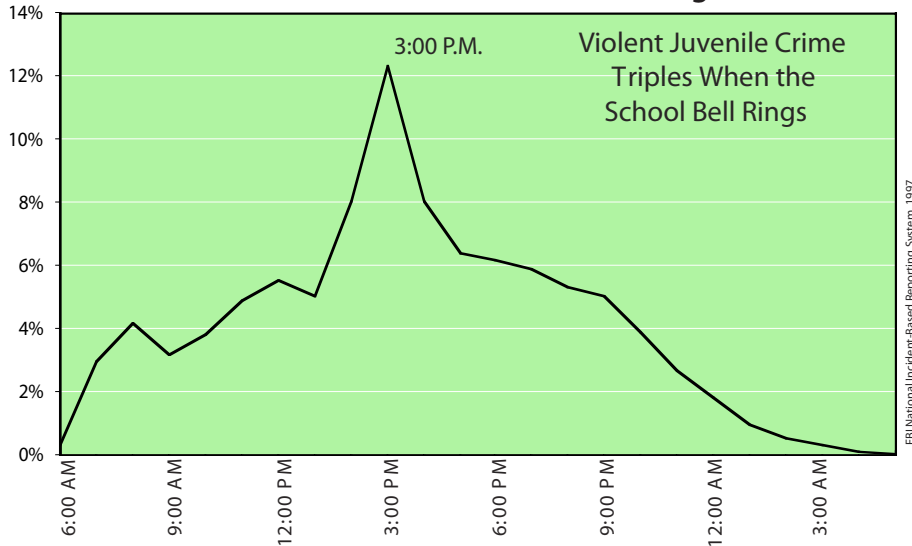
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How do children spend their **out-of-school hours**?

Percent of Violent Juvenile Crime Occurring Each Hour



Nationally, incidence of juvenile violent crime spikes at 3:00 PM – immediately after the school day ends.

The window between 3:00 and 6:00 PM is also the peak time in which underage alcohol and tobacco use, drug abuse and sexual activity occurs.

(Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2000)

- ▶ More than 3 in 4 students (77%) agree that **“a lot of kids get into trouble when they’re bored and have nothing to do,”** with 40% agreeing strongly. (Public Agenda, 2004)
- ▶ More than 1 in 4 students (26%) say they **“see people their age using drugs or alcohol”** every day or almost every day (high schoolers 35%; middle schoolers 13%). (Public Agenda, 2004)
- ▶ A study of Boys & Girls clubs showed that housing projects without the clubs had **50 percent more vandalism and 37 percent worse drug activity** than projects with the clubs. Teens in one California after-school program were half as likely to be rearrested than teens not in the program. (Public Agenda, 2004)

In Nebraska . . .

31% of Nebraska’s K-12 youth care for themselves after school without any adult supervision. This **exceeds the national average of 25%.**

Approximately 20% of non-participating children would be likely to engage in an afterschool program **if one were available in the community.**

(Afterschool Alliance/America After 3 PM Household Survey, 2002-03)



KIDS VALUE STRUCTURED TIME

Far from avoiding organized activities when the school day ends, a national survey indicates that a significant majority of middle and high school students favor afterschool programs as opposed to unstructured free time.

In fact, 85% of surveyed students said that **kids who participate in organized activities such as a team or club after school are "better off"** than those who have a lot of time to themselves during afterschool hours.

(Public Agenda, 2004)



Families want quality, accessible afterschool opportunities

▶ Nationally, **parents from low-income and minority families report more problems** finding available, affordable and attractive afterschool opportunities for kids than their counterparts in other economic/ethnic categories.

- Only 30% of low-income parents reported that affordable activities were easy to find (vs. 65% higher income parents).
- Only 45% of minority parents reported that it was easy to find activities monitored by trustworthy adults (vs. 73% caucasian parents).
- A significant percentage of low-income parents reported that their community could realistically provide more opportunities for elementary-school children (65%) and teenagers (85%).

(Public Agenda, 2004)

▶ A recent survey of African American parents revealed a core set of qualities that they feel **afterschool programs must possess in order to have the greatest impact** on their children's success in school and life:

- Commitment to learning
- Constructive use of time
- Positive social skills development
- Clear boundaries and high expectations
- Individual and family supports
- Encouragement of positive identity and self-esteem

(Black Alliance for Educational Options, 2007)



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Afterschool Programs & Juvenile Crime Prevention

Extracts from: *America's After-School Choice: The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime, Or Youth Enrichment and Achievement.* Fight Crime: Invest in Kids (2000)

When the school bell rings, turning millions of children and teens out on the street with neither constructive activities nor adult supervision, violent crime soars.

On school days, 3 - 6 p.m. are the peak hours for teens to:

- Commit crimes
- Be victims of crime
- Be in or cause a car crash
- Smoke, drink or use drugs

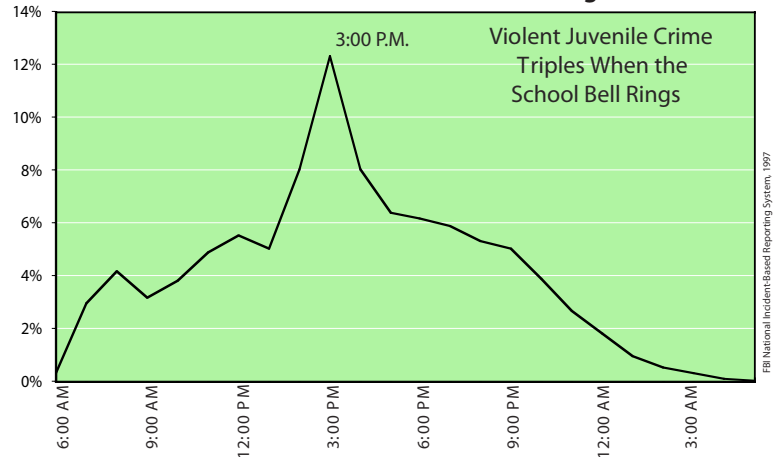
Research Proves Quality Afterschool Programs Cut Crime and Save Money

High school freshmen were randomly selected from welfare families to participate in the four-year **Quantum Opportunities** afterschool and graduation incentives program. Six years later, **boys who did not participate** in the program averaged **six times more criminal convictions** than participants.

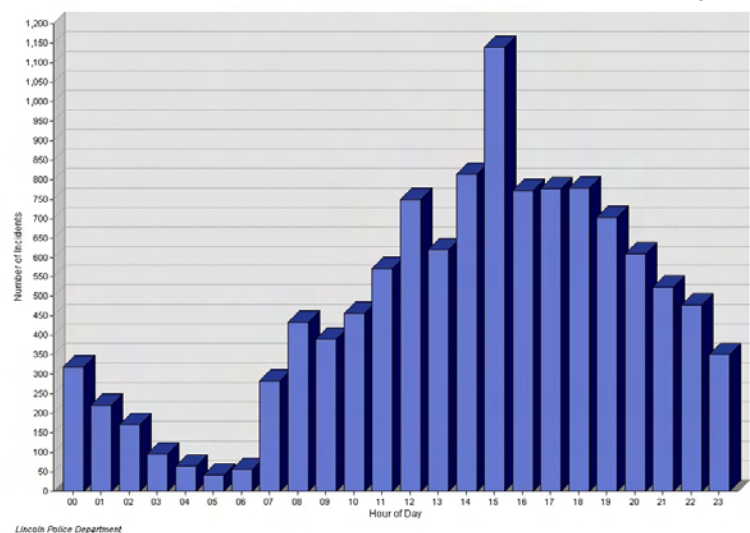
The Quantum Opportunities program produced benefits to participants and the public of **\$3 for every \$1 spent**, without even accounting for the savings from a dramatic reduction in crime.

Quantum Opportunities Program (QOP) is an intensive, multi-component intervention program for disadvantaged teens during their four years in high school. The program is designed to increase graduation rates, decrease pregnancy rates, and decrease violent behavior rates. Program components include life skills training, academic help, tutoring, mentoring, community service, and financial incentives.

Percent of Violent Juvenile Crime Occurring Each Hour



Juvenile Criminal Contacts 2002-06: Lincoln Police Dept.



If we can provide the quality after-school programs and other constructive supports that help youngsters avoid becoming involved in crime, chances are good that they will stay out of serious trouble the rest of their lives. Thus, afterschool programs ultimately reduce not only juvenile crime, but adult crime as well.

One study calculates **an average saving of \$16,428 in crime costs for every youth served**. This figure does not include decreased welfare expenditures and increased tax dollars from higher earnings.

Why Business Cares About After School

THE BUSINESS CASE

After school programs keep kids safe, increase academic success and help working families. So what does all that do for the business community? Plenty. Not only do businesses have to worry about current employees' productivity, satisfaction and skills, but they also have to worry about the development of the workforce of tomorrow. When current employees are absent because of child care issues and new employees need remedial training because of an inadequate education, businesses lose money. After school programs can address both of these problems. So businesses should ask themselves not what will it cost to invest in after school, but what will it cost not to?



CORPORATE VOICES
for **WORKING FAMILIES**

QUALITY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS LIFT BURDENS.

- After school programs provide a safe, enriching environment for kids.
- After school program let working parents focus on work and ultimately improve family life.
- Parents say after school programs help them balance work and family life. Almost 60% in one program said they miss less work than before their child enrolled in the program.
- 75% of the parents in another program said they worried significantly less about their children's safety and had more energy in the evening since enrolling their children in the program. A clear majority also indicated that the program resulted in sizeable time savings.

BUSINESSES NEED A 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE

As manufacturing jobs dwindle in 21st century America, the next generation of workers will need far more education and advanced skills in order to succeed as productive members of the workforce. Unfortunately, too many graduates lack basic skills in reading, writing and math, much less more advanced skills in creative thinking, problem solving, teamwork, communication, self-direction and technology. If future workers come out the end of the "education pipeline" unable to meet these standards, businesses bear the cost of retraining them.

- In 1950, 80% of jobs were classified as "unskilled." Today, 80% of jobs are classified as "skilled," and employment growth is expected to be fastest for positions that require formal postsecondary education.
- Only 40% of adults in the workforce in 2000 had any postsecondary degree, and fewer than half of all high school graduates who go on to college obtain a degree.
- Only 32% of high school graduates are prepared for college coursework, meaning they require no remedial classes.
- Over 70% of college professors and employers said that recent high school graduates were unable to write clearly and had only poor or fair grammar and spelling skills.
- American business currently spends more than \$60 billion each year on training, much of that on remedial reading, writing, and mathematics.
- Remedial education costs Alabama colleges and businesses an estimated \$304 million annually.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Today, fewer than 1/4 of American families reflect the "traditional" image of one full-time caregiving parent at home while the other parent works.
- 77% of mothers with school-age children are employed.
- Average work hours per adult increased 7.9% between 1960 and 1998.
- The gap between work and school schedules amounts to as much as 25 hours per week.
- 87% of working mothers say the hours after school are when they are most concerned about their children's safety.
- Employee productivity drops and absenteeism cost businesses from \$496 to \$1,984 per employee, per year.
- Child care-related absences cost U.S. companies an estimated \$3 billion annually.



PREPARING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE FUTURE.

- Of the middle-grade students participating in an after school program, 56% feel the program is giving them the leadership opportunities and life skills they need to become productive members of society. Half of the participants say the program exposes them to important new places, ideas, and activities and gives them a chance to master skills, and 62% report a high level of academic self-esteem.
- Teens who do not engage in after school activities are five times more likely to be “D” students than teens who do.
- The boys and girls randomly assigned to participate in one after school program were half as likely to drop out of high school and two and one half times more likely to go on to further education after high school.
- Most principals with after school programs at their schools say the programs boost school attendance and increase students’ interest in learning, and 90% say the benefits of hosting the program outweigh the costs.

A SMART INVESTMENT FOR BUSINESS.

For 18 years, *Working Mother* magazine has published a list of “100 Best Companies for Working Mothers.” A slot on the list is a coveted designation — companies have to apply, and child care options, including after school care, are a significant factor. *Working Mother’s* ranking reflects companies’ view that afterschool programs are an investment. As the American Business Collaboration for Quality Dependent Care notes in its 10th Anniversary Report, “The companies view their investments in dependent care in the community not as charity, but as sound business practice.” The First Tennessee Bank echoed that sentiment in noting the benefits of its work/life programs: employee satisfaction impacts the service-profit chain by increasing employee satisfaction, increasing customer retention, and increasing profit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

You can find more information about the business case for after school programs at Corporate Voices’ web site, www.cvworkingfamilies.org. Resources available at the web site include Corporate Voices’ Business-to-Business and Business-to-Community Toolkits, full of case studies and tools designed to help businesses engage around after school policies and programs.



CORPORATE VOICES
for **WORKING FAMILIES**

Corporate Voices For Working Families is a non-partisan, non-profit corporate membership organization created to bring the private sector voice into the public dialogue on issues affecting working families.

Collectively our 52 partner companies employ more than 4 million individuals throughout all fifty states, with annual net revenues of over a trillion dollars.

Over 70% of our partner companies are listed in the Fortune 500, and all share leadership positions in developing family support policies for their own workforces.

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