



Utah Afterschool Network Benefits of School-Based Afterschool Programs

www.utahafterschool.org

The Out-of-School Hours

Out-of-school time programs, whether offered by schools, private providers, community based centers or government agencies, provide a broad *array* of valuable and diverse services to Utah's young people and their families. *Unique* to school-based programs, often called afterschool, is their ability to offer small, flexible learning environments that provide an ideal context for addressing specific educational and developmental needs of individual students.

Research demonstrates that participation in school-connected afterschool programs is linked to improvements in academic achievement, school attendance, student engagement, work-study habits, and social and emotional development. These services are particularly important for low-income and minority youth who often lack sustained access to enriching activities and academic support during non-school hours.¹

Today, 146,000 school-aged children in Utah are responsible for taking care of themselves after school.

Economic Sense

State Impact

- If out-of-school time programs were eliminated in Utah schools today *more than 14,469* children, K-6, would no longer have access to safe, high-quality and affordable learning opportunities during non-school hours.
- Of the students who participate in 21st Century Community Learning Center programs, 39% served qualify for free or reduced lunch programs. Cost to the state to provide child care services for these children would exceed \$18.5 million in childcare subsidy alone.² In Utah it costs an estimated \$3,324 for child care per child per year.
- A conservative estimate shows that 965 school-based afterschool jobs would be eliminated.

Community Impact

- Investment in afterschool programs has been demonstrated to save taxpayers money by keeping students busy during the critical hours between 3 pm and 6 pm when young people are more at risk of becoming victims, perpetrators of crime, or involved in gang activities.³
- Nationally, on average, it costs \$252,000 to incarcerate a juvenile for one year, but only \$1,300 to provide a quality afterschool program.⁴
- School-based programs leverage public resources to ensure equitable access to high quality programs.
- Afterschool programs impact the economy in numerous ways, such as:
 - Delivering increased and strategic opportunities for young people to succeed academically
 - Lowering the rate of crime involvement by young people
 - Increasing worker productivity and decreasing absenteeism in the workplace (ultimately lowering the cost to business)⁵
 - Promoting valuable community service projects leveraged by non-profit providers
 - Providing critical family support
- Research shows that the majority of young adults are not prepared for the workforce. By contributing to the afterschool movement, business leaders can take responsibility for the professional development of tomorrow's workforce.⁶

"They say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and we have found that to be true with afterschool programs benefitting thousands of young people in our city. Afterschool partnerships are critical to helping students improve their grades, engage in positive activities, and better prepare for success in life."
Mayor Mike Winder, West Valley City, Utah.

Cost Benefits of School-Based Programs

Promotes Parent Choice:

In the *Supply and Demand of Out-of-School Time Youth Programs*, Utah parents were asked, “Who in the community should be providing afterschool programs?” The highest percentage, 44.1% chose public elementary schools while only 1.8% chose child care centers.⁷

Promotes Academic Success:

Annual performance report data from 21st Century Community Learning Center (federally funded school-based programs) grantees across the country demonstrate that students attending 21st CCLC Programs improve their reading (43%) and math grades (42%). (Learning Points Associates, Nov 07)

Promotes Program Quality

School-based out-of-school time programs are a part of a larger school-wide and/or city and county plans for improvement. Quality programs *help to*:

- Gain access to and recruit groups of students most in need of support services
- Foster better alignment of programming to support a shared vision for learning
- Maximize resource use such as facilities, staff, data, and curriculum
- Provide continuity of services across the day and year
- Facilitate access to a range of learning opportunities
- Share information about specific students to best support individual learning

“In comparison to others with similar needs, and demographics, students attending the afterschool program are progressing faster, and retaining skills learned as measured by benchmark assessments.” **Pat Ithurralde, Educator, M. Lynn Bennion Elementary School, January 2011**

Promotes Healthy and Safe Cities:

Concerned about quality of life, youth success, and healthy communities, Utah’s city and local leaders look increasingly to afterschool programs to provide equitable access to safe enriching environments that support student academic achievement, improve public safety, combat childhood obesity, and support low-income working families.

Helps Meet the Growing Demand⁸

- 146,788 (28%) of Utah’s school-age children are on their own during the out-of-school time hours.
- 45,286 (9%) of Utah’s children participate in structured programs during the non-school hours. 39% of those children participate in school-based programs.
- 38% of Utah families report that affordability and availability are the largest barriers to accessing out-of-school time programs in Utah.⁷
- Of all Utah children not currently enrolled in afterschool programs, 166,334 (35%) would be likely to participate **IF** an afterschool program were available in their community.
- 312,892 (62%) of Utah’s families with K-12 children have both parents in the labor force.
- Out of 211 out-of-school time programs surveyed throughout Utah, 20% of programs indicate that students are currently on waiting lists to participate.

Conclusion:

School-based afterschool programs are an important and integral part of a broader system of youth support services that are helping to meet the growing need for young people to have safe supervised places to go and structured, engaging activities in which to participate during non-school hours. All Utah’s children deserve greater access to high quality programs that are challenging, relevant, and prepare them to succeed in school and life.

¹ Miller, K. & Snow, D. (2004). *Noteworthy perspectives: Out-of-school time programs for at-risk students*. Aurora, CO: Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning.

² *Maximum monthly child care payments based on monthly local market rates*, https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/occ2/for_providers/ratetable.pdf, 2009

³ *America’s After-School Choice: The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime, or Youth Enrichment and Achievement*, published by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, www.fightcrime.org, 2000

⁴ Boost Collaborative, www.boostcollaborative.org, 2010

⁵ Corporate Voices for Working Families. *America’s leading businesses call for more high quality afterschool programs* <http://www.cvworkingfamilies.org/node/158>, (2004)

⁶ Partnership for 21st Century Skills. *Are they really ready to work?* http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/document/key_findings-joint.pdf

⁷ *Supply and Demand of Out-of-School Time Youth Programs*, prepared for the State of Utah by BBC Research & Consulting, Denver, Colorado, 2007.

⁸ Afterschool Alliance. *Utah After 3 PM*, sponsored by the JC Penney Afterschool Fund. (2009)