



## 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:


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**Develop strong social skills**
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**Are excited about learning**
- 

**Improve work habits and grades**
- 

**Improve school attendance**
- 


**Have higher graduation rates**
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**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:

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**Build foundational skills—such as teamwork, communication, and critical thinking skills—that will help students in school, the workforce, and in life.**
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**Provide opportunities to gain real world work experience—including volunteering opportunities, apprenticeships, and internships.**
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**Introduce students to new interests, opening their eyes to potential career pathways.**
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**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:



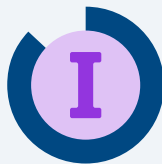
**88%**

**support public funding for afterschool**

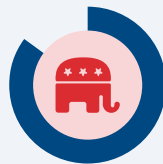
## Support is strong and bipartisan



**89%**  
of Democrats



**91%**  
of Independents



**89%**  
of Republicans



### **Afterschool MAGIC (Making a Greater Investment in Children, Communities and Cities)**

serves approximately 900 scholars in Propel's 13 Pittsburgh region schools. The award-winning program receives funding from two Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center grants. All sites operate four days a week for 36 weeks during the school year and six weeks in the summer. In addition to tutoring and homework help, scholars enjoy a range of enrichment activities from robotics and other STEM activities to judo, art, cooking, and Cub Scouts provided through Propel's numerous strong community partnerships. An afterschool advisory board comprised of these partners along with parents, scholars, and staff members meets quarterly. Scholars enjoy a nutritious dinner served through the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Strong ties to regular day learning are assured by the presence of regular day teachers, who make up the majority of afterschool staff. Parents speak highly of the program and are particularly fond of "Dinner with a Chef," where they join their children to learn new recipes. Through the Propel Action Team and their leadership in the Youth Voice coalition, scholars are gaining leadership skills. Teachers report positive results from afterschool scholars with 80% of student scholars improving in behavior and academic performance and 99% successfully moving on to the next academic level this most recent year. Afterschool scholars benefit from the magic of a safe place to be with teachers they trust and with academic support and enrichment that sets them up for success beyond school. It is MAGIC!



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