

What We Know About After-School Programs

After-School Programs Improve Student Achievement. Children who attend high-quality out-of-school programs are more likely to succeed in school. They have better peer relations, emotional adjustment, conflict resolution skills, grades, and conduct in school compared to their. Children who attend quality out-of-school-time programs spend more time in learning opportunities, academic activities, and enrichment activities and spend less time watching television than their peers. Students participating in 21st Century Community Learning Centers programs have improved MEAP scores at the elementary and middle school levels in both reading and math and increased classroom participation and homework completion by 77 percent.

After-School Programs Support Working Families. One study showed that after-school programs helped parents balance work and family life. Sixty percent of parents said they missed less work and 59 percent said after-school programs supported them in keeping their job. Seventy percent of all Michigan school-age children live in families where the sole parent or both parents work. Parents miss an average of eight days of work per year due to a lack of after-school care. Decreased worker productivity related to parental concerns about afterschool care costs businesses up to \$300 billion per year.

After-School Programs Keep Kids Healthy and Safe, and Prevent Crime. Providing structured experiences for youth can positively impact public health. Nearly 40 percent of Michigan youth say their physical activities are insufficient. In 2009, 11.9 percent of high school youth were obese - obesity is a major contributor to cardiovascular disease, cancer and diabetes and negatively impacts public health costs and educational outcomes. During the hours of 3 to 6 p.m. the occurrence of juvenile crime triples and this is the time when kids are most likely to be victims of crime. Lack of supervision during non-school hours puts children and youth at greater risk of truancy, school failure, depression, and substance abuse, and doubles the risk that 8th graders will smoke, drink alcohol, or use drugs.

After-School Programs Prevent Dropout. Michigan's 2010 dropout rate of 11 percent means that 15,300 students failed to graduate in 4 years with their peers. African American, Hispanic and migrant groups continue to have the highest rates of dropout; roughly 20 percent left school without a diploma. A single event rarely causes a youth to drop out; rather it is the result of a long process of disengagement that can begin before kindergarten. After-school programs are a proven way to mitigate the risk factors associated with dropout - failing grades or discipline problems in elementary and middle school are common. Youth who participate in after-school programs improve in key areas that foster success in school, including social and emotional development, increased interest and engagement in school and avoidance of risky behaviors.

What We Know About Programs That Work in Michigan

Programs supported by community partnership are better prepared to meet the needs of children in their communities. Program structures vary and can be school or community based, include University, non-profit and faith based partners, and are often supported and developed in partnership with local elected leaders. Parent and volunteer participation in program development and daily activities promote healthy relationship with adults and provide educational supports.

All Pro Dads Breakfast, New Haven Elementary, New Haven Community Schools

Research indicates that children do better in school when their dads are involved. At the elementary level, bringing in dads to participate with their children can be difficult. All Pro Dads is a program that brings dads into the school on a regular basis and gives them a short activity in which to engage with their child. New Haven Elementary added several new twists to All Pro Dads to make it unique and meet the needs of the local community. For example, at every meeting dads stand up and say something they're proud of about their child. Local elected officials attend and give credibility to the program and bring the school and community together to improve student success.

S.L.A.M. Summer Literacy and Math, Southgate Community Schools

The learning gap widens for struggling students over the summer months, which contributes to students falling even further behind grade level. S.L.A.M.—Summer Literacy and Math—provides about 125 elementary students 60 hours of literacy and 30 hours of math instruction for five weeks in the summer. Participation is voluntary and students are recommended by classroom teachers and by parents who request placement. The philosophy of the program is to accelerate learning.

Michigan Cannot Afford to NOT Invest in After-school Programs

Quality after-school programs are a great return on investment. A research study of a major after-school program revealed that every one dollar invested in the program produced three dollars worth of benefits to youth and the general public. This figure does not include the added savings from the six-fold drop in crime by boys in the program. Structured experiences for youth provide excellent economic returns in that after-school programs reduce the costs of child care, crime and welfare, improve school performance, and increase the child's compensation and future taxable income earnings.

Voters support investments in after-school across ideological lines. Eighty-eight percent of voters in Michigan agree that there should be some type of organized activity or safe place for children and teens to go after-school every day that provides opportunities for them to learn. Eighty-one percent of Michigan voters support funding for after-school programs. Two in three voters (65 percent) say that after-school programs “are an absolute necessity” for their community. Seventy-eight percent of Democratic women, sixty percent of Republican women and ninety-six percent of African American voters agree with that statement. Sixty-nine percent of voters support increased funding for after-school programs, even if it leads to a tax increase.

What You Can Do as a Michigan Legislator

In keeping with Governor Snyder's dashboard measures, his focus on measureable outcomes, a prenatal to age 20 system of education, school success, and health and wellness, we urge you to:

- ✓ **Restore funding for high quality before- and after-school programs in the Department of Human Service budget** - funding authority for before- and after-school pilot programs was reduced from \$16 million in fiscal year 2001 to \$5 million in fiscal years 2005 through 2009.
- ✓ **Increase the Summer Expansion Grant to \$5 million.** Funded at \$3 million in FY 2010 for summer 2011 - P.A. 190 of 2010, Section 65. This program served 85 sites throughout Michigan with outcomes of improved academic performance, increased participation and engagement, and gains in positive youth development and social-emotional functioning. These outcomes document a tremendous effort to reduce summer learning loss, and help close the achievement gap for many low income Michigan students.
- ✓ **Continue support for 21st Century Community Learning Centers** which are 100 percent federally funded.