

## After-school Works!

# Know the Research to Make the Case for After-school Programs

### FACT

Students in high-quality after-school programs have **better attendance, behavior, grades and test scores** compared to their non-participating peers.

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**Juvenile crime** and victimization peaks in the hours after school, yet **1 in 5 kids** are left on their own during these hours.

## After-school Supports Students' Success

America's students face many obstacles that can potentially derail their journey to a healthy, rewarding and productive life. Thankfully, after-school programs across the country are helping students make the right decisions by inspiring learning, providing safe and supportive environments, and giving students the essential supports they need to succeed in school and beyond. (Afterschool Alliance)

After-school programs provide safety and supervision, while linking kids with mentors who discourage negative behaviors, such as aggression and drug and alcohol use. For every dollar invested in after-school programs, \$2.50 is saved in crime-related costs. Three out of four parents agree that after-school programs give them peace of mind about their children when they are at work.

## America After 3PM: After-school Programs in Demand

The past decade has seen much progress in the number of children who are able to take advantage of the opportunities and activities after-school programs have to offer, transforming the hours between 3 and 6 p.m. from a time of concern for working parents to a time of learning and advancement for students. The 2014 America After 3PM edition—which spans a decade of data chronicling how children spend the hours between 3 and 6 p.m.—has found that overall participation in after-school programs has increased by nearly 60 percent from 2004 to 2014, with nearly 4 million more children in after-school programs today.

In addition to more children participating in after-school programs, parents' satisfaction with specific aspects of after-school programs—such as the quality of care, staff and program activities—has significantly increased over the last five years. Although sizeable gains have been made in after-school program quality and participation, the unmet demand for after-school programs continues to rise.

In 2004, the parents of 15.3 million children said they would enroll their child in an after-school program if one were available; today that number stands at 19.4 million children. And, while the number of children alone and unsupervised after school has decreased over the last 10 years, there are still 11.3 million children headed for an unsupervised environment after the last school bell rings.