



21st Century Community Learning Centers Overview

The 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) program provides **academic enrichment** opportunities in before- or after-school and/or summer settings for children, particularly students who attend **high poverty** and **low-performing schools**. 21st CCLC programs help students to meet state and local standards in core academic subjects. They must ensure that the academic services they provide are **aligned with the school’s curriculum** in the core subject areas of at least math, reading/language arts, and science. These programs offer students a broad array of enrichment activities that **complement their regular academic programs**, along with offering *families* literacy and related educational development.

Academic Impact

21st CCLC programs provide opportunities for students that support the regular school day core academic subjects with fun, hands-on, engaging learning activities during non-school hours. Children gain new interests and apply academic concepts. This is a **cost effective program reaching struggling learners**. National data demonstrate that 21st CCLC students improve their reading and math grades by 43% and 49% respectively.

Non-Academic Benefits of Afterschool Programming

Social and Emotional: Students participating in afterschool have better social and emotional relationships not only with their peers, but also with the adults in their lives. This results in **fewer behavior referrals** and **better attendance rates** than students who have no afterschool programming available.

Supporting Families: Afterschool programs help working families and **improve Missouri’s economy**. Nationally, with 78% of mothers of school-age children in

Missouri:

- 70.7% regular 21st CCLC students behavior improved (21.2% remained the same)
- 95.38% arrive motivated to learn
- 97.60% regular class attendance

Nationally:

- 75% of regular 21st CCLC students showed improvement in homework completion and class participation
- 72% showed improvement in student behavior

Parents:

- The parents of 18 million children say they would enroll their kids in afterschool programs – if programs were available.
- 9 in 10 parents are satisfied with the afterschool programs their children attend.
- Based on parents of children in afterschool, the top benefits of participation include helping with social skills, keeping kids safe, providing opportunities to be physically active and helping their child succeed in school.

the work force, and welfare reform pushing more into jobs, millions of children are on their own between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., the hours when youth are most likely to commit crime -- or be victimized by it. Without afterschool programs, job productivity decreases during the hours children are out of school as parents are on the phone checking on their students, costing billions to businesses. Afterschool programs also **help parents to support their child’s educational success** by providing homework help and tutoring that may be out of the skill range of the family.

School Reform

Afterschool is already a part of school redesign/reform in that it provides a proven practice for helping students learn, changes behavior, increases socialization, and improves their education outcomes (attendance, grades, etc). According to **US Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan**, “Engaging students in afterschool activities is a critically important strategic part in improving a school’s performance, and in helping schools that have historically struggled go to the next level.” 21st CCLC programs are linked to school day curriculum and afterschool learning **complements, but does not replicate the school day**.

What Voters Say...

- More than 80% say children need a place to go after school.
- More than 75% say afterschool is an absolute necessity.
- 72% want Congress to increase afterschool funding.
- 73% want state and local officials to increase afterschool funding.
- 69% would support a tax increase if it went to afterschool.