

Afterschool Is a Game Changer

Accelerating Learning and Literacy

Afterschool, summer learning, and other out-of-school time programs are an essential part of our education system. These programs complement what kids learn at school and offer enriching activities that get students excited about learning, help them do better in school, and engage them in creative hands-on projects.



The Challenge

Michigan is working to build a world-class, lifelong education system that inspires and supports every child on their journey to reach their potential. But right now, our state is lagging behind the nation academically.

Across Michigan:

- Less than **one-third** of Michigan fourth graders and eighth graders are proficient in reading or math
- **30%** of students are chronically absent
- **7%** of students gain college credit in high school compared to more than 30% nationally

Afterschool Is a Solution

Afterschool and summer learning programs provide additional time for youth to practice reading, writing, and STEM—the subjects known as science, technology, math, and engineering. Trained staff provide support and opportunities that help students improve their academic performance and prepare for a bright future.

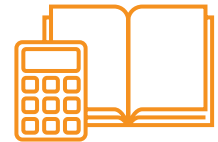
Among Michigan [parents](#) with a child in afterschool:

- **87%** are satisfied with the opportunities for reading or writing in their child's program
- **79%** are satisfied with the homework help their child receives
- **77%** agree afterschool helps children gain interest and skills in STEM

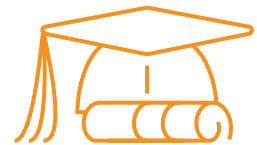
Youth who [participate](#) in quality programs:



Improve school attendance, work habits, and grades



Make gains in reading and math



Have higher graduation rates



Gain self-control, confidence, and social skills



The Gap Between Work and School Time

Michigan youth spend about **32 hours** a week in school, and their parents work an average of **42 hours** a week. Afterschool programs close the child care gap by providing a safe place for youth to go when schools let out and parents are still working. Working parents need reliable, affordable options for their school-age kids so they can have peace of mind and be productive on the job.



Research shows that afterschool programs accelerate academic growth

An extra 10 minutes of reading per day for students reading at the 40th percentile would increase the number of words they read per year by more than [300%](#).

A study found that elementary school students who regularly attended afterschool programs were [26% more likely](#) to finish the year at or on track for grade-level reading compared to their non-attending peers. Each day of afterschool resulted in a 1.7% increase in the likelihood of being a grade-level reader.



“
I can get tutoring to work on my homework. It’s a big help to process my life and my goals.”

EDWARD, AGE 17, Accelerate to Great, Lincoln Park

Michigan Needs More Afterschool!

There is no more important time to strengthen supports for Michigan families. But more than [750,000](#) children are missing out on life-changing afterschool opportunities because our state has never had enough programs for all the families who want and need them.

Afterschool and summer learning programs are an essential partner in Michigan’s education system, and we need a sustainable funding solution to ensure that every child who wants to participate has the opportunity.

Afterschool provides a solid return on investment. Research shows that every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by:



- 1 Increasing kids’ earning potential
- 2 Improving kids’ performance at school
- 3 Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

Spotlight

Detroit At Bat Summer Program

At Bat uses baseball and softball as tools to strengthen young people’s reading, STEM, and social and emotional learning (SEL) skills. During a typical day, youth rotate through “stations,” where they practice conditioning, teamwork, and game strategies through activities that incorporate STEM, literacy, and SEL education. Students develop sports skills and self-confidence as they progress at their own pace toward their own goals. With support from the Youth Development Resource Center, At Bat provides afterschool programs at partnering schools and through summer camps in the community.



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