



# Afterschool Helps Michigan Thrive



Afterschool, summer enrichment, and other out-of-school time (OST) programs are an essential part of Michigan’s education system and are critical for addressing priority issues in our state, including supporting kids and schools, prioritizing early learning and childcare, creating jobs and growing the economy, and keeping families and communities safe.

## Supporting Michigan Families

School-age childcare is a necessary part of the safety net for families. However, for the more than 655,500 ALICE school-age youth and their families, the costs of OST care are often beyond their financial reach.

A recent [survey](#) shows Michigan parents value and rely on afterschool:

**84%**

say afterschool gives working parents peace of mind

**81%**

say afterschool helps working parents keep their jobs

**86%**

support public funding for afterschool

Snacks and meals served after school are critical to feeding more than [282,320](#) hungry children in Michigan. [77%](#) of Michigan parents report the availability of nutritious foods is important when choosing their program.



## Building a Future Workforce

Programs not only support our current workforce, but they also support our future workforce by helping students gain skills and explore careers.

### OST programs:

- Help youth build foundational skills—such as teamwork, communication, and critical thinking
- Provide opportunities to gain real-world work experience through internships, apprenticeships, and volunteer activities
- Introduce students to new interests, opening their eyes to potential career pathways
- Can boost students’ performance in math and science and put them on the path to pursuing a STEM career pathway

A [study](#) of afterschool STEM programs found that 80% of participating students made positive gains in science career knowledge.

## Getting Students Back on Track

Our schools need help to engage students in learning as our state struggles with high rates of [chronic absenteeism](#) and [declining math and reading scores](#). Afterschool programs provide tutoring, enriching academics, and hands-on learning experiences that help kids do better in school and gain critical life skills. With Michigan youth in a mental health crisis, OST programs are another critical touch point for youth to have positive relationships with peers and adults.

### Decades of [research](#) proves students who regularly participate in quality afterschool:



Improve school attendance, work habits, and grades



Make gains in reading and math



Have higher graduation rates



Gain self-control, confidence, and social skills

## Keeping Communities Safe

In Michigan, nearly [237,000](#) kids are alone and unsupervised between 3:00 and 6:00 pm, which are the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimenting with drugs and alcohol.

### Afterschool and summer programs [help](#) young people:

- Avoid drug and alcohol use and abuse
- Make smart decisions—online and offline
- Practice dealing with challenging situations productively

## Michigan Needs Sustainable Funding for Afterschool

More than [750,000](#) Michigan 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.

There are [376](#) kids for every program in Michigan, and access is far worse in some communities—like Wayne County, where the ratio is [452 to 1](#). Funding ([65%](#)) and staffing ([59%](#)) are also top concerns among OST providers.

The FY 23-24 budget allocated \$50 million in school aid funds to increase youth access to OST programs. The state's investment in OST are a huge step forward. For the next fiscal year and beyond, we need sustainable funding to ensure every Michigan youth, particularly those who need the programs the most, have equitable access to them.

### Did you know?

Every \$1 invested in afterschool programs [saves \\$3](#) by:

- Increasing kids' earning potential
- Improving kids' performance at school
- Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



### Get Involved!

- Find data for your district
- Visit a local program
- Invite us to share our expertise



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