

Afterschool in Virginia

Programs in Demand, But Out of Reach for Many

Demand for programs is enormous.

In Virginia, the demand for afterschool programs is incredibly high. But just a fraction of Virginia families who want afterschool programs have them.

Parents value the benefits afterschool programs provide for young people—keeping them safe, helping them build life skills, and getting them excited about learning—and say afterschool programs help parents keep their jobs and provide peace of mind.

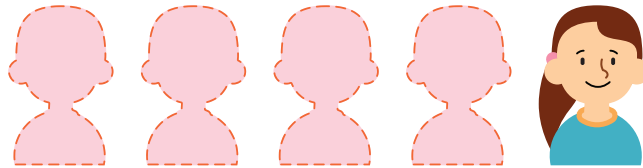
Parents of
745,577 children

want afterschool programs

✓ **145,486**
children are in
afterschool programs

✗ **600,092**
children are **not** in programs, but
would be if a program were available

4 in 5 Virginia children are missing out.



Behind the demand: Parents see afterschool programs addressing their top-of-mind concerns.

An overwhelming majority of parents agree that afterschool programs benefit kids and parents.

BENEFITS TO KIDS

- 77%** Keeps them safe
- 86%** Builds social skills and responsible decision making
- 85%** Boosts teamwork, critical thinking, and leadership skills
- 79%** Supports well-being
- 79%** Excites them about learning and improves school attendance
- 84%** Encourages fun and learning, decreasing screen time



BENEFITS TO PARENTS:*

- 86%** Helps them keep their job or work more hours
- 91%** Leads to less stress because they know their child is safe
- 90%** Boosts productivity at work
- 95%** Positively impacts overall well-being

**Among parents with a child in an afterschool program*



Quality Rating



Excellent
or Very Good

Virginia parents give their children's afterschool programs high marks.

With a quality score of 4.34 out of 5, 88% of parents rate their child's afterschool program as "excellent" or "very good."

With many Virginia families facing barriers to afterschool participation, there is strong support for public funding.

PROGRAM AFFORDABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND AVAILABILITY LIMIT PARTICIPATION.

Virginia parents cite barriers to enrolling their children in afterschool programs:



62%
Programs are too expensive



41%
Programs are unavailable in my community



52%
Inconvenient locations



52%
Lack of a safe way to and from programs

VIRGINIA PARENTS SUPPORT ACCESS AND FUNDING.

More than 5 in 6 Virginia parents (86%) agree that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs and about 9 in 10 (91%) are in favor of public funding for afterschool opportunities. Across political affiliations, support for public funding is high.



Democrats



Independents



Republicans

Afterschool by the numbers in Virginia

145,486

Number of children in an afterschool program

5.5

Average hours per week

81%

Parents reporting that their child's afterschool program is located in a public school building

3.8

Average days per week

\$144.20*

Average cost per week

**Among parents who pay for afterschool programs*



What You Can Do

Learn more and see recommendations for action at aa3pm.co

About the Survey

America After 3PM is a national online survey of parents or guardians of school-aged children, with supplemental interviews conducted by telephone. Data were collected by Edge Research on behalf of the Afterschool Alliance. In Virginia, 662 households and 1,057 children were screened for this study. Child-level statewide projections are based on total school enrollment numbers for the 2021-2022 school year from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.

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