

# A Sound Strategy for Building a Better Kentucky

## State Investments in Afterschool and Summer Learning

Decades of research show that afterschool and summer programs make good economic sense and benefit everyone. As a result, states across the country are now investing in these programs to address workforce challenges, ignite economic growth, improve outcomes for youth, and keep communities safe – and so should Kentucky.



### ADDRESSING WORKFORCE CHALLENGES



When parents worry about what their kids are doing after school, it makes it hard for them to work — meaning U.S. businesses can lose up to \$300 billion a year! Afterschool and summer programs help parents focus on their jobs so businesses can thrive.

Among Kentucky parents:

- **81%** agree that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs.
- **85%** agree that afterschool programs provide them peace of mind.

### IMPROVING STUDENT OUTCOMES



In Kentucky, chronic absenteeism is at an all-time high while scores on national assessments of reading and math proficiency have declined over the past decade.

Students who [regularly participate](#) in quality afterschool and summer programs:

- Raise **reading levels** and increase **math scores**.
- Improve their **school attendance, work habits, and grades**.
- Are more likely to **graduate**.

### ENSURING CAREER READINESS



Afterschool and summer programs help students gain real-world work experience and build the soft skills employers crave like teamwork, communication, and critical thinking.

Among Kentucky parents:

- **77%** agree that programs provide kids opportunities to learn skills like communication and teamwork.
- **72%** agree that programs help kids gain interest and skills in STEM.

### KEEPING KIDS AND COMMUNITIES SAFE



Afterschool and summer programs keep kids and communities safe by helping them make smart choices and stay away from risky activities – both online and offline.

Among Kentucky parents:

- **74%** say afterschool programs keep kids safe and out of trouble.
- **72%** agree afterschool programs help kids avoid risky behaviors.

## STATES EXPANDING AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES



**Texas** invested **\$5 million** over 2 years through the Texas Partnership of Out of School Time (TXPOST) to implement mental health programs in community-based out of school time.



**Tennessee** uses lottery funds that since its creation in 2002 has provided **\$14 million** for comprehensive afterschool academic enrichment programs for students aged 5-18.



**Virginia** invested **\$5 million** in state funds to support comprehensive, community-based afterschool programs in their 2024-2026 state budget.



**Missouri** invested **\$7.4 million** in competitive grants for afterschool programs with a focus on comprehensive programs.



**Alabama** has invested **\$17.8 million** across a number of sources to prioritize comprehensive school-based afterschool and summer learning opportunities.



**Alaska** utilizes tax revenue from recreational cannabis, on average **\$2 million** a year, to support youth prevention through local comprehensive afterschool programs.

### PUTTING AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS TO WORK IN KENTUCKY

In Kentucky over 280,000 children are waiting for an afterschool program. Parents say cost, lack of programs, and transportation challenges are top barriers to participation.



#### Every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by:

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

**Connect with the Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance to learn more about how afterschool and summer programs can help kids and support working families in Kentucky.**

#### Sources

<https://www.catalyst.org/research/after-school-worries-tough-on-parents-bad-for-business>

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<https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/geo/Kentucky/overview>

[https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolSnack/State-budget-roundup-for-afterschool-Part-1\\_05-22-2024.cfm](https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolSnack/State-budget-roundup-for-afterschool-Part-1_05-22-2024.cfm)

Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies conducted in states that include California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.

