

afterschool WORKS!

IN MONTANA



Afterschool and summer learning programs prepare young people for the jobs of tomorrow and help working parents keep their jobs. Investing in these programs will help build Montana's future workforce and ensure that our businesses can succeed and grow.

Afterschool supports working families

Families across America report that the gap between work and school schedules can be up to 25 hours per week. Parental concerns about afterschool care result in missed work time and decreased productivity that costs U.S. business up to [\\$300 billion](#) annually.

Montana parents [value and rely on](#) afterschool:

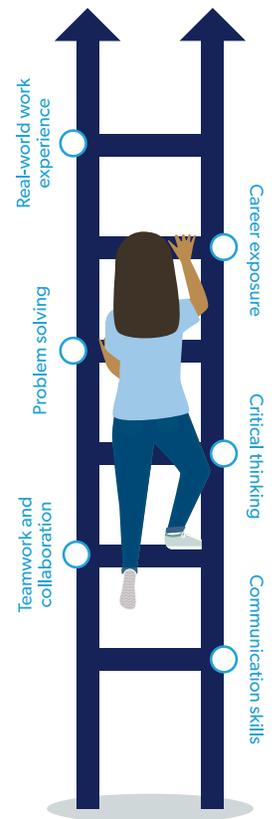
- **82%** say afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs
- **79%** say afterschool programs help give working parents peace of mind about their kids while they are at work

Afterschool helps build a strong workforce

Over a third ([36%](#)) of Montana businesses have turned down growth opportunities due to workforce challenges. Afterschool programs support our future workforce by helping students gain skills and explore careers, especially in the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering and math—which are projected to grow [two times faster](#) than other jobs from 2021 to 2031.

[Montana](#) parents say kids gain skills in afterschool:

- **87%** say afterschool programs provide kids opportunities to learn life skills, like communications and teamwork
- **76%** say afterschool programs can help kids gain STEM-related interests and skills



Afterschool and summer learning programs provide scaled opportunities for students to gain foundational skills that employers desire in their future hires.



Helping youth explore STEM careers

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





Afterschool is a smart investment in Montana's workforce and future generations.

Today's students are our future leaders, and we need to ensure they have the skills required to tackle the problems of tomorrow. Investing in afterschool programs not only provides critical support for our parents and businesses, it will help prepare our kids for future jobs and connect them with opportunities that will encourage them to stay in Montana and build a prosperous economy for all of us.



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

83% Montana parents overwhelmingly support public funding for afterschool, and support is high across the political spectrum.



Democrats



Independents



Republicans

Montana families are missing out

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) are the only federally funded before-school, afterschool, and summer learning programs in Montana. Demand for afterschool programming in Montana is so great that **more than half** of the applications for the most recent 21st CCLC grant competition were not funded. There is currently no state funding for afterschool in Montana.

In fact, our state has never had enough programs for all the families who need and want them. For every child enrolled in afterschool in Montana, **4 more** are waiting for an available program.



That's more than **68,000 kids** who are missing out on critical learning opportunities.

As Montana moves forward in developing strategies to support the workforce now and to develop the workforce of the future, let's make afterschool part of the solution!



Get Connected Today

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