Preparation Wisconsin’s students for college and career.

- Afterschool programs can expose kids to new academic and professional opportunities they would otherwise not experience, especially in the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering and math—that are critical to prepare all kids for the future.
- Business leaders have identified skills such as communication, teamwork, critical thinking, self-confidence and problem-solving as among the most critical skills for 21st century workers. Many afterschool programs help students develop these types of skills, according to independent research.

Helping to ensure young people are eligible for military service.

- In Wisconsin, 71% of young adults cannot join the United States military, primarily because they lack adequate education, have a criminal record, or are physically unfit. Afterschool is changing that:
  - It provides a safe haven that helps kids avoid risky behaviors, online and offline, during the hours of 3 to 6 p.m., when juvenile crime peaks and more than 205,000 youth in Wisconsin are unsupervised.
  - 85% of Wisconsin afterschool programs offer physical activity opportunities for students.
  - 82% offer support to students in completing their homework.

Supporting students of all ages and backgrounds.

- Many afterschool programs in Wisconsin are effectively leveraging partnerships with workforce development programs and services that particularly help low-income youth and teens develop workplace skills, explore careers, and gain work-based learning experiences.
- More than 40% of youth in Wisconsin have faced at least one traumatic experience. The Wisconsin Afterschool Network is using trauma-informed practices to ensure that afterschool programs can help students build the resilience they need to overcome those challenges.

For every Wisconsin student currently participating in afterschool, two more would participate if a program were available.

ENROLLED: 121,469 students
WAITING: 265,984 students
We Need to Invest in Afterschool

Afterschool programs keep students safe and help them do better in school, improve their work habits, and graduate. The programs engage students in enriching learning experiences that foster leadership, collaboration, and responsibility. In Wisconsin and as a nation, we have much more work ahead of us to ensure that all children are afforded the opportunities afterschool and summer learning programs offer.

21st Century Community Learning Centers—Afterschool Works!

The 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to afterschool and summer learning programs for Wisconsin’s children and teens.

- During the 2016-17 school year, 21st CCLC programs served 24,126 students across 243 communities statewide.
- Classroom teachers with students participating in Wisconsin's 21st CCLC programs reported that 73% of those students improved their academic performance.7
- In Wisconsin, 1 out of every 5 applications for 21st CCLC cannot be funded, leaving communities without the supports they need for children and youth in the hours after school and during the summer.

Policymakers Can Make a Difference

- Seek dedicated funding for afterschool and summer programming to establish or expand programs.
- Visit an afterschool program in your community.
- Take part in Celebrate Afterschool each May, Lights On Afterschool each October, and other local events.
- Tell us your afterschool story! We love to hear from leaders who attended afterschool programs and whose kids or grandkids go to an afterschool program!

Program Spotlight

The afterschool program at J.I. Case High School in Racine offers students opportunities in theater arts, video production and workforce skills, as well as help with school work. The support helps them enter college ready to succeed.

“I joined the Case AfterZone theater program in September 2014. I had no idea what I was getting into, but I was willing to just say yes,” said student Amari Daily. “I honestly had no background or interest in theater. I was an athlete and interested in music. Most of all, although I had options, I had no real direction. Joining theater though made me persistent, resilient and eager to learn whatever interests me. AfterZone gave me the opportunities to learn new skills and I can confidently say I have found my path.” Amari is now a freshman at Western Michigan University studying stage management and direction.

Sources

5. Afterschool in Wisconsin: Building our Children's Future, One Program at a Time. Wisconsin Afterschool Network.