

afterschool **WORKS!**

IN NEW MEXICO



Afterschool works to keep kids safe, boost student success and help parents keep their jobs.

Students who participate in afterschool and summer learning programs attend school more often, do better in school and are more likely to graduate. These expanded learning opportunities engage students in enriching experiences that foster leadership, collaboration, and responsibility. In New Mexico, nearly 71,000 children and teens are enrolled in an afterschool program. More than 90,000 are waiting for an available program.

Afterschool programs prepare students for college and the jobs of tomorrow

Afterschool and summer learning programs help young people develop the skills they need for a successful future. Students across New Mexico are engaging in hands-on projects, working together to tackle real-world problems, and getting connected with community projects, internships, summer jobs and mentoring experiences.

Among New Mexico parents:

- 64% say afterschool programs excite children about learning
- 67% say afterschool programs help children gain workforce skills
- 77% say it's important for their child have to summer activities that help them learn

Afterschool programs support New Mexico's working parents and keep communities safe

Families across America report that the gap between work and school schedules can be up to 25 hours per week. Parents' lack of afterschool options results in lost productivity that costs U.S. businesses up to \$300 billion per year.

- Juvenile crime and victimization peaks from 3-6 p.m.— more than 70,000 children and teens in New Mexico are alone and unsupervised during these hours
- When parents have afterschool choices, they have peace of mind: 75% of New Mexico parents say that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs
- More than 9 in 10 parents statewide support public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs

Across New Mexico, more than 90,000 kids are waiting for an available afterschool program and 57% of families want their kids enrolled in a summer learning program.

NM•ST
New Mexico Out-of-School Time
NETWORK

We need to invest in afterschool.

In New Mexico 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. It will take a united effort to increase the availability of quality programs to help children reach their full potential and succeed in school, college, career, and beyond.



Businesses and community organizations can help

- Partner with afterschool and summer programs to offer students mentorships or internships
- Invest in or volunteer to lead activities for afterschool and summer programs
- Advocate for afterschool programming
- Organize a local taskforce to create youth services where there are gaps
- Create a Maker Space where kids and their families can discover and experiment

Policymakers can help

- Seek dedicated funding to establish or expand quality afterschool and summer programming
- Visit an afterschool program

Afterschool programs are a smart investment



Every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves \$9 by

- Increasing kids' earning potential
- Improving kids' academic achievement
- Reducing juvenile crime and delinquency

Sources

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- www.afterschoolalliance.org/after_out.cfm
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New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network

The New Mexico Out-of-School Time network brings together diverse stakeholders interested in ensuring positive youth development opportunities and outcomes through afterschool programs.

