



NJSACC, the Network for New Jersey's
Afterschool Communities

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AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS IN NEW JERSEY

New Jersey offers students an array of programs from large citywide initiatives like New Brunswick Youth Services System, which provides free afterschool programs for every New Brunswick elementary school child, to small, community programs in church basements and community multipurpose rooms. In all, 183,000 school age children in New Jersey are able to participate in afterschool programs. This accounts for 12% of New Jersey's school-age population.

High quality afterschool programs promote learning, keep children safe, and support working families. From well-known program models like Family Friendly Centers, New Jersey After 3 and 21st Century Community Learning Centers to small programs like Haddonfield Childcare or Kids Korner in Bloomfield, there are high quality afterschool programs across New Jersey.

New Jersey residents support afterschool by huge margins

Eighty-nine percent of New Jerseyans say that it is important that all school-age children in New Jersey have access to safe, structured, and affordable afterschool programs. Sixty-seven percent say that it is very important, according to a February 2009 poll conducted by Monmouth University.

The poll showed strong support for afterschool across all groups, including Democrats and Republicans, males and females, whites and non-whites, and people with and without school-age children. These results mirror national data showing broad support for afterschool programs.

New Jersey is a leader in state funding for afterschool

The State of New Jersey funds afterschool programs through two programs: New Jersey After 3 and Family Friendly Learning Centers. New Jersey After 3 receives \$15 million annually to support programs that reach 15,000 children. Family Friendly Centers are funded at \$2.2 million annually to fund 64 afterschool programs.

New Jersey also accesses federal funding for afterschool programs. Nearly 20,170 of New Jersey children are counting on the programs supported by the U.S. Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative, the only federal program dedicated to afterschool. If the No Child Left Behind Act was fully funded by the federal government, New Jersey communities could double the number of afterschool programs, giving nearly 50,060 children a safe place to go after school. The State also funds afterschool/summer slots through vouchers administered by county child care

resource and referral agencies using Child Care Development Block Grant funds from the federal government. In addition, the Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development (DFD) contracts with centers throughout the state for after school/summer slots. DFD currently contracts with 148 licensed child care centers of which 66 are funded to serve 3,976 school age children.

ABOUT NEW JERSEY AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK

The New Jersey Afterschool Network will build upon the work of NJSACC, the network for New Jersey's afterschool communities, and its state agency and private sector partners. The Network grows lasting public support for quality afterschool programs across New Jersey. Led by a public-private partnership, the network enhances public awareness and support; offers guidance for parents, providers, and advocates; strengthens relationships with policymakers, funders, practitioners, and parents, and shares best practices in the field.