

Afterschool in New Jersey

Programs in Demand, But Out of Reach for Many

Demand for programs is enormous.

In New Jersey, the demand for afterschool programs is incredibly high. But just a fraction of New Jersey families who want afterschool programs have them.

Parents of
742,333 children

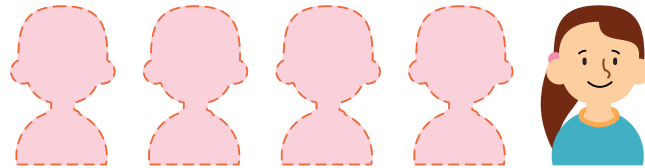
want afterschool programs

✓ **152,895**
children are in
afterschool programs

✗ **589,437**
children are **not** in programs, but
would be if a program were available

Parents value the benefits afterschool programs provide for young people—keeping them safe, helping them build life skills, and getting them excited about learning—and say afterschool programs help parents keep their jobs and provide peace of mind.

Approximately 4 in 5 New Jersey children are missing out.



Behind the demand: Parents see afterschool programs addressing their top-of-mind concerns.

An overwhelming majority of parents agree that afterschool programs benefit kids and parents.

BENEFITS TO KIDS

- 80%** Keeps them safe
- 85%** Builds social skills and responsible decision making
- 80%** Boosts teamwork, critical thinking, and leadership skills
- 73%** Supports well-being
- 74%** Excites them about learning and improves school attendance
- 85%** Encourages fun and learning, decreasing screen time



BENEFITS TO PARENTS:*

- 87%** Helps them keep their job or work more hours
- 98%** Leads to less stress because they know their child is safe
- 87%** Boosts productivity at work
- 89%** Positively impacts overall well-being

**Among parents with a child in an afterschool program*



Quality Rating



Excellent or Very Good

New Jersey parents give their children's afterschool programs high marks.

With a quality score of 4.17 out of 5, 80% of parents rate their child's afterschool program as "excellent" or "very good."

With many New Jersey families facing barriers to afterschool participation, there is strong support for public funding.

PROGRAM AFFORDABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND AVAILABILITY LIMIT PARTICIPATION.

New Jersey parents cite barriers to enrolling their children in afterschool programs:



58%
Programs are too expensive



42%
Programs are unavailable in my community



48%
Inconvenient locations



51%
Lack of a safe way to and from programs

NEW JERSEY PARENTS SUPPORT ACCESS AND FUNDING.

Approximately 9 in 10 New Jersey parents (91%) agree that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs and 9 in 10 (90%) are in favor of public funding for afterschool opportunities. Across political affiliations, support for public funding is high.



91%
Democrats



90%
Independents



88%
Republicans

Afterschool by the numbers in New Jersey

152,895

Number of children in an afterschool program

5.4

Average hours per week

87%

Parents reporting that their child's afterschool program is located in a public school building

3.6

Average days per week

\$154.20*

Average cost per week

**Among parents who pay for afterschool programs*



What You Can Do

Learn more and see recommendations for action at aa3pm.co

About the Survey

America After 3PM is a national online survey of parents or guardians of school-aged children, with supplemental interviews conducted by telephone. Data were collected by Edge Research on behalf of the Afterschool Alliance. In New Jersey, 649 households and 1,065 children were screened for this study. Child-level statewide projections are based on total school enrollment numbers for the 2021-2022 school year from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.

America After 3PM was made possible through our partnership with the New York Life Foundation.

