

The Summer Struggle for New Jersey Families

Affording the Opportunities Parents Want for Youth

New Jersey parents want a summer full of opportunity for their children to explore, connect, and grow. But cost puts summer programs out of reach for many.

FAMILIES WANT A SUMMER FULL OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THEIR KIDS

Outdoors and screen-free

Safe, fun, active

Learning and being social

Community partners power summer programs

Local College
County Library
Community Center

TOP FIVE FACTORS NEW JERSEY PARENTS LOOK FOR IN SUMMER PROGRAMS:

- 1 Safe environment
- 2 Knowledgeable and caring staff
- 3 Physical activity
- 4 Time for fun and educational activities; less screen time
- 5 Opportunities to interact with peers and build social skills

TOO MANY NEW JERSEY CHILDREN ARE MISSING OUT ON SUMMER PROGRAMS

Parents of
713,751 children
want summer programs

× **247,533**
children don't have access

Approximately 1 in 3 New Jersey children are missing out.



Affordability is the top challenge for New Jersey families.

SUMMER PROGRAMS ARE OUT OF REACH FOR TOO MANY NEW JERSEY FAMILIES DUE TO COST

41%

of parents report cost is a barrier to enrolling their child in a summer program

LOCATION, TRANSPORTATION, AVAILABILITY, AND FINDING INFORMATION ON SUMMER PROGRAMS ARE ALSO BARRIERS



16%

Issues with location or transportation



12%

Programs unavailable



11%

Information on summer programs is not easy to find

New Jersey parents give summer programs high marks and want them funded!

PARENTS WHO HAVE FOUND A SUMMER PROGRAM RATE IT HIGHLY

97%

Satisfaction



88%

of parents favor public funding for summer learning opportunities

SUPPORT IS STRONG AND BIPARTISAN



92%

Democrats



87%

Independents



84%

Republicans

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.

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