

# Expanded Learning Opportunities matter . . .

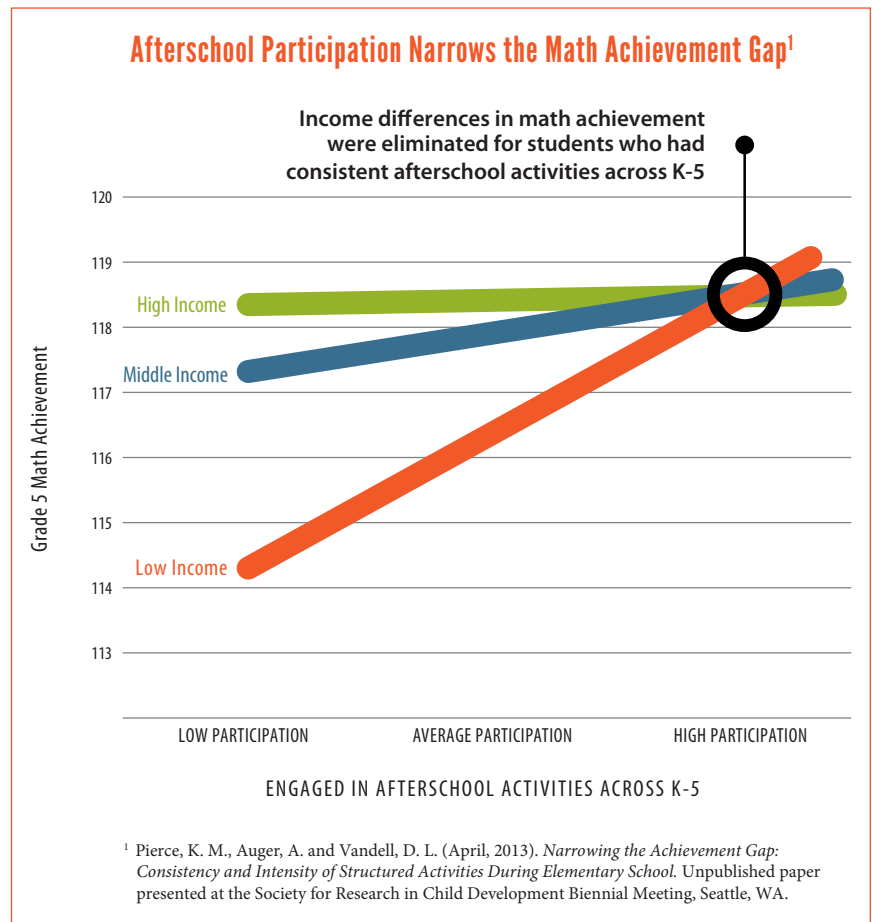


Research has shown that **students experience learning loss** when they are not educationally engaged or occupied during significant periods of out-of-school time. In fact, some studies suggest that students' out-of-school time has as much impact on school success as time spent in the classroom. <sup>i</sup>

New research demonstrates that more consistent time in afterschool activities during the elementary school years is linked to **narrowing the gap in math achievement** at grade 5. <sup>ii</sup>

An analysis of 68 afterschool studies concluded that students participating in a high quality afterschool program **went to school more, behaved better, received better grades and did better on tests** compared to non-participating students. <sup>iii</sup>

Youth participating in afterschool programs are **half as likely to smoke, drink or use drugs**, and one-third less likely to become teen parents, than their peers.



Research shows that afterschool programs can improve academic achievement and help prepare young people for the 21st Century workplace. Hands-on learning projects help youth **develop critical thinking, leadership and team building skills**—skills we need to be competitive in the global marketplace. <sup>iv</sup>

<sup>i</sup> National Institute on Out-of-School Time, 2007

<sup>ii</sup> Expanded Learning & Afterschool: Opportunities for Success, 2013

<sup>iii</sup> Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning, 2010

<sup>iv</sup> Afterschool Alliance, 2013