

# Americans value Expanded Learning Opportunities

## According to recent surveys . . .

- ▶ **82% of school superintendents** from across the country agree that afterschool programs are important. <sup>i</sup>
- ▶ **Three in four voters** say afterschool programs are “an absolute necessity” for their community. <sup>ii</sup>
- ▶ **Researchers calculate** that every \$1 invested in afterschool programs can yield as much as a \$3 savings to taxpayers.
- ▶ **Support for afterschool crosses party and ideological lines.** 88% of Democrats, 84% of Independents and 76% of Republicans agree on the need for an organized activity or safe place for children and teens after school. <sup>iii</sup>
- ▶ **A U.S. Department of Justice study** shows that each high-risk youth who is prevented from adopting a life of crime through participation in afterschool programs saves taxpayers between \$1.7 million and \$2.3 million. <sup>iv</sup>
- ▶ **Parents miss an average of five days of work** per year due to a lack of afterschool care. Decreased worker productivity related to parental concerns about afterschool care costs businesses up to \$300 billion per year. <sup>v</sup>



## Youth value expanded learning opportunities

Far from avoiding organized activities when the school day ends, a significant majority of middle and high school students favor afterschool and summer programs as opposed to unstructured free time.

Two out of three young people nationwide wish there were more places where they could feel safe and have fun in the out of school time hours.

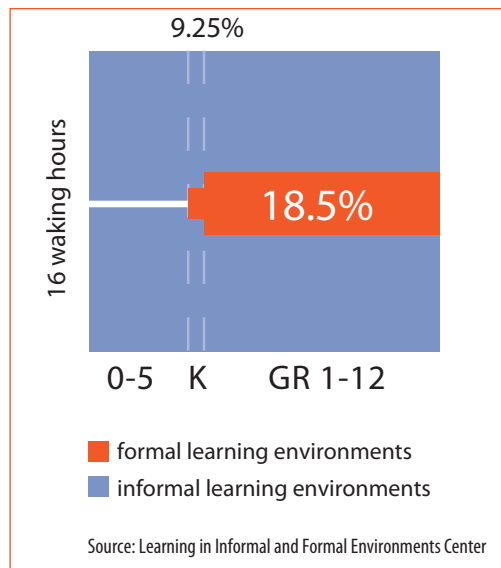
More than one-third of teens in a statewide survey said that there are not enough supervised after school activities in their communities. Of these, 77 percent said they would be likely to participate if interesting activities were available to them.<sup>ix</sup>



## The need for expanded learning opportunities is significant

Even when young people are in school the most, during the K-12 years, they spend only 18.5% of their waking hours in a formal classroom learning environment.

Only 8.4 million K-12 children (15%) participate in afterschool programs. An additional 18.5 million children would participate if a quality program were available in their community.



One in three 8-12 year old youth are either “home alone” or “hanging out with friends” after school. But 79% of boys and 84% of girls who do not participate in afterschool programs are interested in such activities.

## In Nebraska . . .

- Currently, 36% (114,040) of our state’s youth are on their own in the hours after school.
- 33% (93,351) of Nebraska youth would participate in an afterschool program if one were available to them. Only 11% (33,895) of youth in Nebraska participate in afterschool programs.
- A program evaluation of Nebraska’s 21st CCLC afterschool programs reported that parents of student participants were very satisfied with the program. Based on a 4-point scale, with 4 signifying strong agreement, the average parent response to the statement, “the 21st CCLC program is a great benefit to my child/youth” was 3.90.

<sup>i</sup> National Afterschool Association, 2011  
<sup>ii</sup> Afterschool Alliance 2008 National Election Eve Poll  
<sup>iii</sup> Afterschool Alliance 2006 National Election Eve Poll  
<sup>iv</sup> NJASCC: The Case for Afterschool, 2007  
<sup>v</sup> Learning Point Associates, 2010  
<sup>vi</sup> Expanding Minds and Opportunities: STEM Learning in Afterschool and Summer Programming, 2013  
<sup>vii</sup> Afterschool Alliance, 2009  
<sup>viii</sup> Afterschool Alliance 2006 National Election Eve Poll  
<sup>ix</sup> Afterschool Programs: Keeping Kids and Communities Safe, 2007  
<sup>x</sup> Afterschool Alliance, Nebraska Fact Sheet, 2013

