



10 Reasons to Draw on Disadvantaged Student and Low Wealth Supplemental Funds for Afterschool Programs

Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families and improve academic achievement. Parents, principals, law enforcement officers and community organizations are all among the many North Carolinians who see the advantages of afterschool programs. Below are ten reasons why your school or district should use Disadvantaged Student and Low Wealth Supplemental funds to provide your students with afterschool programs.

1. Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Fund program money has just been expanded to all 115 school systems. If schools and districts don't take advantage of the legislative intent to find effective interventions, an opportunity to use some of this money for afterschool programs will be lost, and kids will be left out.
2. Low Wealth Supplemental Funding, which affects 80 school systems, has just been fully funded, with a 31% increase. Like local funding, Low Wealth Supplemental Funding offers great flexibility, so this new funding offers a real chance to expand afterschool programs and serve kids who need them most.
3. It's about providing a well-rounded education. By making use of the free time students naturally have after the bell rings, afterschool programs provide a chance for students to participate in arts, sports and technology activities they might not have time for during the school day.
4. North Carolina's K-12 schools need the support afterschool programs provide in the form of extra learning and enrichment time that improves academic achievement, reduces grade retention, and increases student attendance and interest in school.
5. Nearly 6 percent of North Carolina public school students are limited English proficient. Afterschool programs provide extra time for them to master the language.
6. The hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. are the most dangerous for kids. Juvenile crime rates triple, and the lack of supervision makes young people more likely to engage in risky behaviors such as drug use and sexual activity.
7. 78% of NC students are in households where one or both parents work outside the home. 30% of these children have no adult supervision afterschool. Only 14% are able to benefit from afterschool programs.
8. Every dollar invested in afterschool programs will save taxpayers three dollars.
9. Voters across party line, demographic group, geography and age overwhelmingly support afterschool programs for all. 91% of North Carolina working parents believe afterschool programs are an absolute necessity.
10. Principals and administrators frequently cite afterschool programs as a reason for school improvement and say the benefits of hosting a program outweigh any costs.