

Afterschool in Kentucky: A Critical Need Remains an Afterthought

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Summers, school breaks, and the hours between school dismissal and the end of the workday are a challenge for working families across Kentucky. They don't have to be.

Afterschool programs benefit everyone.

Affordable, quality afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and support the needs of today's working families. Decades of research demonstrates the benefits of afterschool initiatives for youth, families, and communities. Some examples:

- **Closing achievement gaps:** Consistent participation in afterschool programs during the elementary school years is linked to narrowing the gap in math achievement between high-income and low-income students by grade 5.¹
- **Keeping kids and communities safe:** Students who participate in quality afterschool programs are less likely to take part in criminal activities and risky behaviors than students not enrolled in a program.²
- **Improving workforce participation:** 86% of Kentucky parents with a child in an afterschool program agree that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs.³

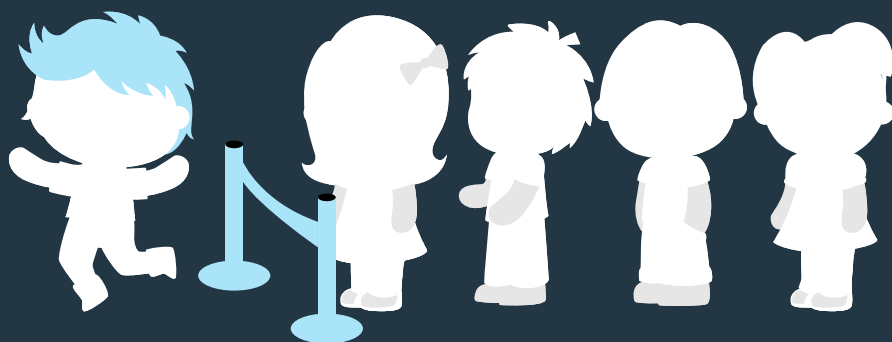
But too many kids in Kentucky are missing out.

Unmet demand for afterschool programs in Kentucky has soared in recent years. In Kentucky, **for every child in an afterschool program, 4 more are waiting to get in**, leaving an estimated **85,849 children** alone and unsupervised after school each day.⁴

A significant percentage of parents in Kentucky report challenges to enrolling their child in an afterschool program.

*Top barriers reported by Kentucky parents:*⁵

- Lack of available programs: 37%
- Programs are too expensive: 56%
- No safe way for their child to get to and from programs: 46%



KYSA
Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance



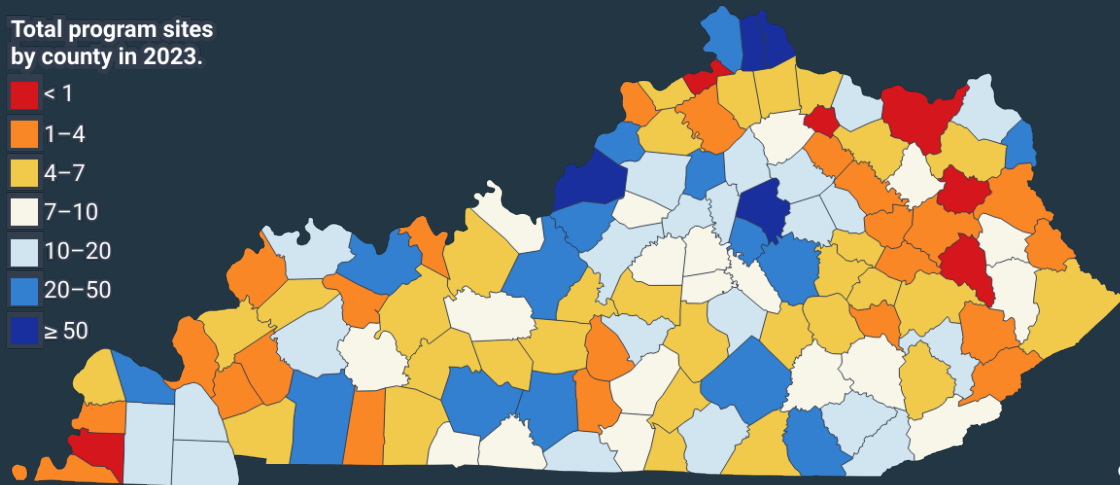
For more information on
afterschool in Kentucky, go to:
www.kyoutofschoolalliance.org

**FOR EVERY CHILD IN AN
AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM, 4 MORE
ARE WAITING TO GET IN.**

The need for affordable, quality afterschool programs far outweighs the current supply in nearly every community across Kentucky.

Many different types of organizations operate afterschool and summer programs for youth in Kentucky.⁶ But **high operating costs, lack of funding, and a broken regulatory system** make it difficult for these organizations to sustain or open new programs in Kentucky. The map below shows the sum total (duplicates removed) of all federally funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers, regulated school-age child care providers, permitted youth camps, and other afterschool/summer program sites that receive annual support from state appropriations for each county in Kentucky.

Total program sites
by county in 2023.



Six counties (in red) have no programs: Elliott, Gallatin, Hickman, Lewis, Magoffin, and Robertson.



Use our interactive mapping tool to dive deeper into your community's program landscape!

Map: Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance • Created with Datawrapper

Afterschool programs are a smart investment.

An overwhelming majority of Kentucky parents across the political spectrum favor public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs.⁷

- Democrats: 88%
- Independents: 91%
- Republicans: 81%

Research spanning several states shows that **every \$1 invested** in afterschool programs **saves at least \$3** by:

- Increasing kids' earning potential as adults
- Improving kids' performance at school
- Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



88%



91%



81%

States fund afterschool in a variety of ways.

Some examples:

- State budget appropriations
- Pandemic relief funds
- State lottery funds
- Cannabis revenue
- Education funding formula
- Unspent Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds
- Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) set asides
- Other state funding streams, such as from sports betting and public settlements

¹Pierce, K. M., Auger, A., & Vandell, D. L. (2013). Associations between Structured Activity Participation and Academic Outcomes in Middle Childhood: Narrowing the Achievement Gap? Paper presented at the 2013 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development held in Seattle, WA.

²5 Hirsch, B.J., et. al. (2011). *After-School Programs for High School Students: An Evaluation of After School Matters*. Retrieved from <http://www.sesp.northwestern.edu/docs/publications/1902355234df57ecd0d6c5.pdf>.

³Afterschool Alliance. (2020). *Kentucky After 3PM*. Retrieved from: <https://kyoutofschoolalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/KY-AA3PM-2020-fact-sheet.pdf>.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Examples include arts organizations, businesses, churches and other faith-based organizations, colleges and universities, K-12 schools and districts, museums and science centers, public libraries, Parks & Recreation departments, philanthropic organizations, youth development organizations (e.g., 4-H, Boys & Girls Clubs of America), and the YMCA.

⁷Afterschool Alliance. (2020). *Kentucky After 3PM*. Retrieved from: <https://kyoutofschoolalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/KY-AA3PM-2020-fact-sheet.pdf>.

Help our state close achievement gaps, grow workforce participation, and keep communities safe by encouraging regulatory change and investing in afterschool!



LEARN MORE!