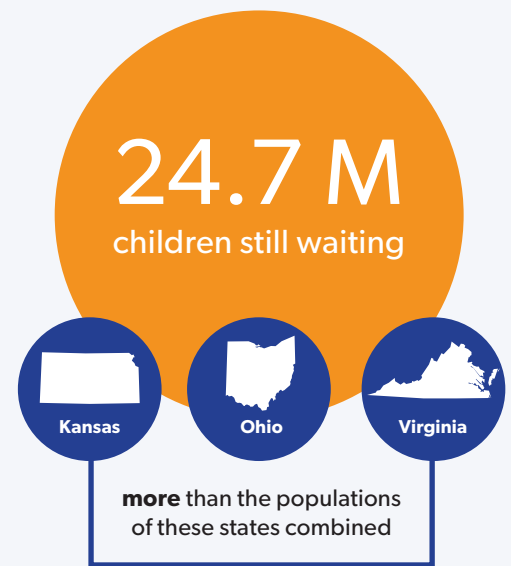




Afterschool: A Bipartisan Solution to Help Young People Thrive

 Afterschool Alliance
OCTOBER 2022

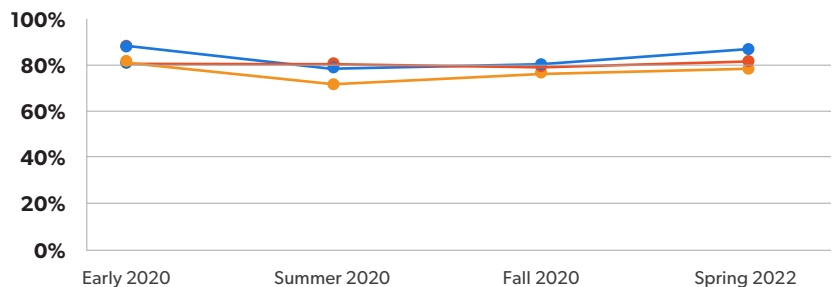
At a time of deep partisan divides, Afterschool Alliance surveys have found an area of consensus around support for afterschool and summer learning programs. Across the political spectrum, parents identifying as Democratic, Independent, and Republican strongly agree that afterschool and summer learning programs are keeping kids safe, inspiring learning, and providing peace of mind to working parents, with overwhelming majorities in favor of public funding for such programs. Surveys of parents of school-age children before and during the pandemic demonstrate the value parents place on afterschool and summer learning programs, regardless of political affiliation. Even with the high levels of support for afterschool, gaps remain, and there are **24.7 million children**—more than the populations of Kansas, Ohio, and Virginia combined—who would be enrolled in a program if one were available to them.



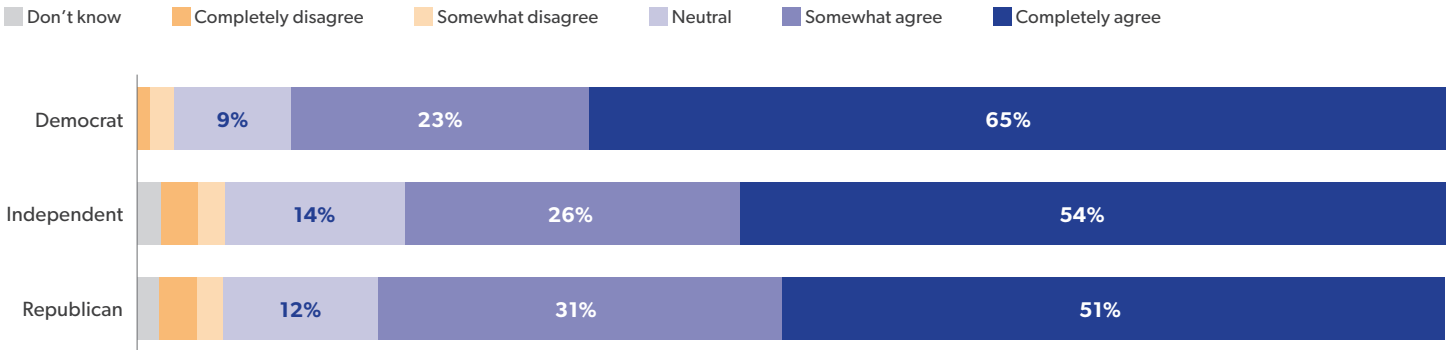
Afterschool for All

A spring 2022 survey of nearly 1,500 parents found that approximately 8 in 10 who identify as Democratic (88 percent), Independent (80 percent), and Republican (82 percent) agree that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. These results are similar to parent surveys conducted both before and during the pandemic, demonstrating the consistently high level of support for the need for afterschool and summer programs.

Parents who identify as **Democratic**, **Independent**, and **Republican** continue to voice agreement that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs through the pandemic.



Overwhelming majorities of Democrat, Independent, and Republican parents *somewhat* or *completely agree* that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs.



Consensus on Afterschool Benefits

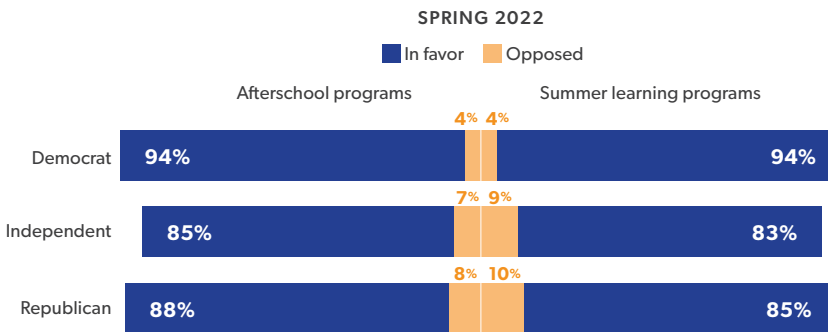
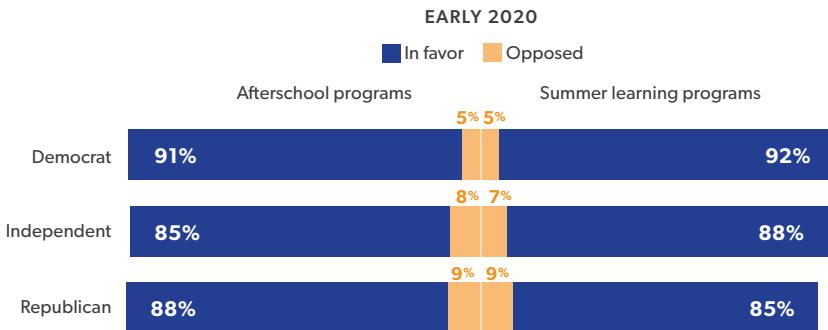
From providing young people with the opportunity to build critical life skills to helping parents keep their jobs, America After 3PM found that parents of all political ideologies agree that afterschool programs are a source of support for children and their families.

Democratic, Independent, and Republican parents agree that afterschool programs:



Championing Public Funding

Regardless of political affiliation, parent support for public funding of afterschool and summer learning programs remains strong.



Essential for Recovery

COVID-19 has had a serious impact on the health, economic stability, and overall well-being of children and families alike. However, through the pandemic, afterschool and summer learning programs have risen to the moment, helping young people stay connected to their peers and caring adults, remain engaged in learning, and realize their full potential. A survey of parents in spring 2022 found that nearly 3 in 4 agree that the experience of the coronavirus has made them appreciate school teachers and afterschool providers more than ever before (73 percent), including majorities of parents who identify as Democratic (83 percent), Independent (68 percent), and Republican (71 percent).

Survey results are based on four nationally representative surveys conducted by Edge Research of parents or guardians of a school-age child who lives in their household: a survey fielded Jan. 27-Mar. 17, 2020 of 31,055 households using an online survey and supplementary telephone interviews, an online survey fielded Aug. 4-18, 2020 of 1,071 parents, an online survey fielded Oct. 12-29, 2020 of 1,202 parents, and an online survey fielded May 12-June 28, 2022 of 1,489 parents.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Kansas City Out-of-School-Time Collaborative

Kansas City, Missouri

In response to the pandemic, a group of afterschool programs and community-based organizations came together to develop a plan to support students who would be entering into remote or hybrid learning environments during the 2020-2021 school year. Led by Camp Fire Heartland, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kansas City, YMCA of Greater Kansas City, Upper Room, and Turn the Page KC formed an out-of-school-time collaborative that worked with three school districts and 10 charter schools to provide services before, during, and after school to approximately 1,000 K-8th grade students. The collaborative—which grew to include groups such as the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department and Kansas City Public Library—provided a safe and structured space for students to go during virtual school days, helped students with their schoolwork, provided academic enrichment activities during the hours after school, and served meals and weekend snack packs to address food insecurity. From purchasing headphones and charging cords for students to facilitate remote learning to communicating regularly with teachers and serving as a go-between for teachers and parents, the collaborative ensured that their students and families had the supports they needed during a disruptive and challenging time. Today, the collaborative remains focused on addressing pressing challenges across their organizations, including creating a video marketing tool to address staffing shortages and providing trauma-informed care training across the organizations to better support students who experienced or continued to experience trauma due to the pandemic.



The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. Learn more at: www.afterschoolalliance.org