Afterschool Is a Game Changer

Supporting Working Families

Afterschool, summer learning, and other out-of-school-time programs provide critical support to Michigan families, businesses, and our economy. They ensure parents and caregivers have quality child care options when schools are closed so they can work without worry.

The Challenge

A lack of quality, reliable, and affordable child care is damaging our state's economy and workforce. When kids have no place to go after school, they miss out on valuable learning opportunities, parents are less productive at work, and businesses lose money.

This child care crisis is directly contributing to economic decline in Michigan, including:

- **$2.9 billion** loss in the state's economic activity
- **$2.3 billion** loss for businesses each year
- **1/3** of all families and nearly **1/2** of families with low income experiencing employment issues due to a lack of child care

Afterschool Is a Solution

In order to grow Michigan's workforce, we need to reduce barriers that keep parents from participating in it. Afterschool programs provide safe, welcoming places that expand learning and social opportunities for children and teens. These programs give parents peace of mind because they know their kids are safe, learning, and having fun. Caregivers are able to focus on providing for their families rather than worrying about whether their children are supervised or coordinating rides for their kids.

Michigan parents value and rely on afterschool:

- **84%** say afterschool gives working parents peace of mind
- **81%** say afterschool helps working parents keep their jobs
- **86%** support public funding for afterschool, and that support is high across the political spectrum
  - **94%** Democrats
  - **94%** Independents
  - **83%** Republicans

The Gap Between Work and School Time

Michigan youth spend about 32 hours a week in school, and their parents work an average of 42 hours a week. Afterschool programs close the child care gap by providing a safe place for youth to go when schools let out and parents are still working. Working parents need reliable, affordable options for their school-age kids so they can have peace of mind and be productive on the job.

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It's Good Business to Invest in Afterschool

School-age child care is necessary for a thriving economy and an equitable society. Whether Michigan families rely on dual incomes or a single-wage earner to make ends meet, many caregivers, particularly women, may be forced to leave the workforce if they don't have accessible and reliable school-age child care options. Yet Michigan parents report challenges to enrolling their child in an afterschool program—and for the more than 655,500 ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) school-age youth and their families living in Michigan, the costs of afterschool care are often beyond their financial reach.

What keeps Michigan families from enrolling their children in afterschool?

52% Too expensive

52% Lack safe transportation

40% Lack of programs

Michigan Needs More Afterschool!

There is no more important time to strengthen supports for Michigan families. But more than 750,000 children are missing out on life-changing afterschool opportunities because our state has never had enough programs for all the families who want and need them.

Afterschool and summer learning programs are an essential partner in Michigan's education system, and we need a sustainable funding solution to ensure that every child who wants to participate has the opportunity.

"

The program was a blessing to the youth in our community. My kids were always so happy and never wanted to leave! The things that they offered were so amazing, and they always included every youth!"

PARENT OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN AFTERSCHOOL

Afterschool provides a solid return on investment. Research shows that every $1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least $3 by:

$ = $

1 Increasing kids' earning potential

2 Improving kids' performance at school

3 Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

Contact Us
Erin Skene-Pratt
Executive Director
✉ admin@miafterschool.org

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