

## OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS

# Engaging Students and Accelerating Learning

Afterschool, summer learning, and other out-of-school time (OST) youth development programs expand learning opportunities for young people and help them realize their full potential.

### The Challenge

Across the country, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a profound toll on learning loss. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a majority of states saw math and reading scores decline for 4th through 8th graders between 2019 and 2022. The same study found that students' confidence in their math and reading skills decreased. Nevada students are struggling, too:

- The average math and reading scores of Nevada 4th graders in 2022 were lower than the nation's average for public school students.<sup>1</sup>
- Only 21% of Nevada students were NAEP-proficient in reading in 2022—a 5 percentage-point drop from 2019.<sup>1</sup>

### The Opportunity

OST programs are designed to engage students in enriching academic activities, offering young people more time for deeper learning, hands-on projects, and access to caring mentors and tutors. They provide safe, fun, and welcoming spaces where kids of all ages can feel a sense of belonging and have freedom to explore their interests and passions.

#### Decades of research proves students who regularly participate in quality OST programs:<sup>2</sup>

- Make gains in reading and math
- Improve school attendance, work habits, and grades
- Have higher graduation rates

#### Nevada parents value OST:<sup>3</sup>

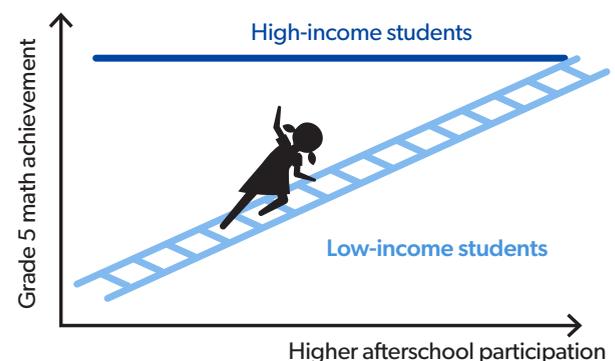
- 73% say their kids are engaging in STEM learning opportunities
- 74% are satisfied with the opportunities for reading and writing in their child's program
- 77% agree OST helps kids get more excited about learning and interested in school



### OST programs provide lasting benefits for all young people

While all youth benefit from quality OST programs, young people from families with low incomes benefit most—and the benefits last. Students who regularly attend continue to improve their academic performance and see meaningful results into young adulthood.

#### Afterschool raises math achievement to an even level among elementary school students from low- and high-income families.<sup>4</sup>





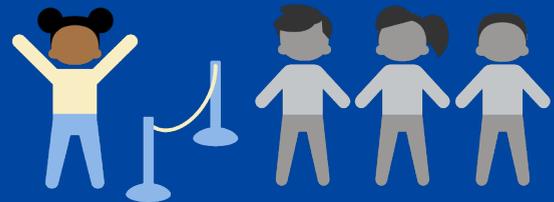
## Get Involved!

We must seize this moment to fund Nevada's OST programs so they can help reengage students and close academic achievement gaps. We can do this by investing in OST programs and providing resources that will allow programs to partner with more schools. The Nevada Afterschool Network is helping to make connections across the state to ensure all children have access to high-quality OST programs to develop to their full potential.

### SOURCES

1. The Nation's Report Card | NAEP. (2022). Retrieved March 7, 2023, from <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.
2. Afterschool Alliance. The evidence base for afterschool and summer. (2021, April). Retrieved March 3, 2023 from <http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/The-Evidence-Base-For-Afterschool-And-Summer-2021.pdf>.
3. Afterschool Alliance. America After 3 PM: A Household Survey of Afterschool in America. (2020). Retrieved November 7, 2007, from <http://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/geo/Nevada/overview>.
4. Auger, A., Pierce, K. M. and Vandell, D. L. (April, 2013). Participation in Out-of-School Settings and Student Academic and Behavioral Outcomes. Unpublished paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, California.

Nevada has never had enough OST programs to serve all the families who want to attend. For every student enrolled in OST, **three more are waiting to get in**—that's more than 214,000 Nevada children that would enroll in a program if one were available to them.<sup>3</sup>



ENROLLED

WAITING

### Nevada parents overwhelmingly support OST<sup>3</sup>

- 90% are in favor of public funding for OST programs.
- 86% are satisfied with their child's OST program.



The Nevada Afterschool Network provides opportunities for cooperative partnerships and access for all to quality OST programs. This includes quality technical support, professional development, sustainable funding, and advocacy for OST programs at the local, regional, and state level. To achieve these goals, the network relies on strong partnerships with local programs, state agencies, community stakeholders, and families.

### CONTACT US

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